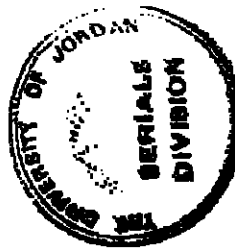


Israeli artillery shells South Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Israeli artillery in South Lebanon shelled territory outside the Jewish state's self-declared "security zone" on Wednesday, security sources said. They said Israeli artillery gunners shelled the Jib area, three kilometres northwest of the zone, where guerrillas of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) group are active. There was no report of casualties in the shelling which came hours after Katyusha rockets slammed into the border enclave village of Kawka. No group claimed responsibility for the rocket attack but Hizbollah-led groups have increased attacks on Israeli troops and allied Lebanese militias to show opposition to Arab-Israeli peace talks and following Israel's killing of Hizbollah leader Sheikh Abbas Musawi in February. Some 1,000 Israeli troops and the 3,000-man South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia control the 15-km deep zone.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي



Population growing faster than ever

LONDON (R) — The world's population is growing faster than ever before and consuming resources at an unprecedented rate, the United Nations Population Fund warned Wednesday in its annual report. "Together these two crises... heighten the possibility of future economic and ecological catastrophe, the nightmare of the 1990s," Dr. Nafis Sadik, the fund's executive director, told a London news conference launching the State of World Population 1992. The report, entitled a World in Balance, publishes revised long-range population projections from the U.N. population division which show an upward trend. The figures had not been revised since 1982. According to the projections, world population in mid-1992 will be 5.48 billion and will reach six billion by 1998, two years earlier than previously forecast. Annual additions to world population in the next decade will average 97 million, the highest in history, with nearly all the growth in Africa, Asia and Latin America, it said. In the longer term, the medium or most likely projection forecasts 8.5 billion people by 2025, a near doubling of world population to 10 billion in 2050, and continued growth to 11.6 billion in 2150.

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Labour Day

RTThe Jordan Times will not be published on Saturday, May 2, because of the Labour Day holiday on Friday. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Sunday, May 3. The Jordan Times wishes its readers and advertisers a happy holiday.

Crown Prince urges dialogue on projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has called for initiating a comprehensive national dialogue on spreading economic projects over various parts of Jordan. In a visit of Al Rashadiyeh cement factory and Al Hasa mines in Al Tafleh governorate on Tuesday, Prince Hassan stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination between companies in the southern parts of the Kingdom and called for launching new industries that would contribute to developing south Jordan and create new jobs. The Crown Prince said it was necessary to draw up a joint policy in the field of manufacturing spare parts and providing the requirements for spare part plants to gain financial dividends. He affirmed the importance of increasing the capacity and the output of such plants to be able to face challenges facing Jordan and to achieve cooperation between firms all over Jordan. Prince Hassan opened at Al Hasa phosphate mines a new school built at a total cost of more than JD 300,000.

EC sets Jordan development grant

AMMAN (R) — The European Community (EC) said on Wednesday it has pledged a \$5 million grant to help Jordan generate new income and employment programmes. It said the money, part of the EC's third financial protocol with the Kingdom, would be used by existing non-governmental organisations to offer grants, interest-free and commercial loans for projects and employing Jordanians.

Israeli soldier shoots himself

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli undercover soldier who served in the occupied territories fatally shot himself while playing a form of Russian roulette, newspapers reported Wednesday. The army confirmed the accidental death but did not reveal the circumstances. It also verified another report of a colonel playing with a gun that accidentally fired and narrowly missed two colleagues during a staff meeting. The army identified the dead soldier as Ehud Berman and said two soldiers with him were suspended. The Maariv and Haaretz dailies said the other soldiers were blamed for failing to stop Berman from playing with his pistol. Berman, 21, was killed Monday as he held the pistol to his head and pulled the trigger while trying to remove the magazine fast enough to stop a bullet from firing, Haaretz said.

India to open embassy in Israel

NEW DELHI (AP) — The Indian embassy in Israel will open in Tel Aviv next month, more than three months after the two countries established diplomatic relations, news reports said Wednesday. Press Trust of India (PTI) said V. Gupta, a senior official in the United Nations division of the Foreign Ministry, has been appointed the charge d'affaires. The name of the ambassador designate will be announced later, PTI said quoting a ministry spokesman.

Lebanese pound sags to new low

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese pound sagged to another record low against the dollar on Wednesday, losing 2.5 per cent of its value on Beirut's foreign exchange market. The central bank said the pound closed at 1,600 to the dollar compared with Tuesday's close of 1,560. Bankers said demand for dollars exceeded supply because of the continued lack of confidence in the government of Prime Minister Omar Karami.

Israel seeks sixth round of bilaterals in Rome before polls

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI, PALESTINIAN and Jordanian delegations met jointly Wednesday to decide when to hold another round of peace talks as negotiations picked up speed. "We think the talks have reached a stage where we can remove the gaps between the sides," Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli spokesman, said Tuesday in an optimistic account of the way Palestinians had received Israel's proposal for municipal elections on the West Bank and Gaza.

Israel requested the joint session to ask the Arabs to agree to meet in Rome before Israel's June 23 elections. Syria's chief negotiator, Muwaffak Al Alaf, told reporters the current round should be extended instead. It is due to end Thursday, at Israel's request.

"Why did we come here to sit for three or four days and then rush again to Rome after two weeks? Why (do) we not stay here one more week or two?" said chief Syrian negotiator Muwaffak Al Alaf.

"It is not really an indication of seriousness to come after two months to a round and say we are staying for only four days," he said.

He said Syria had tired of the long theoretical debate it had

engaged in with Israel about whether United Nations Resolution 242 obliged the Jewish state to withdraw from the occupied Golan Heights.

"It is enough talking on how to understand this, how do we understand that, what is our intention, what is their intention," Mr. Alaf said.

"We shall start to propose to them practical steps to implement the instruments that are the basis of this peace process," he said.

On another discordant note, Lebanese spokesman Souheil Chammas complained that Israel has been disturbing Lebanon's interpretation of a 1978 U.N. Security Council resolution calling on Israel to withdraw its troops from his country.

Mr. Chammas accused Israel of making veiled threats to resume military operations against guerrillas in Lebanon.

"Yesterday there was an indication to that effect, namely that they will continue to reserve the freedom to initiate lethal actions against Lebanon," he said.

On the whole some of the bitterness was absent that marked previous rounds. Israeli negotiators distributed chocolates to the Palestinians and Jordanians, and when the chief Palestinian delegate, Haider Abdul Shafi, turned aside a reporter's question during a picture-taking session,

chief Israeli negotiator Elyakim Rubinstein agreed that he should not reply.

On this third day of the fifth round of talks, it was clear that all four sets of negotiations, involving Israel and Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestinians, were deep into substance, though the sides remained deeply divided on the issues at the heart of the Mideast conflict.

But Israel appeared to have grabbed a public relations initiative with its suggestions, which met with suspicion on the Arab side but seemed difficult to turn down.

Palestinians do not like the Israeli proposal to hold the first municipal elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since 1976. They fear it is a way of putting off the national elections they are demanding to choose a legislature that could take control of the territories from Israel.

"The municipal elections are a dead end. They do not lead and they have never led in the history of peoples to political elections," said Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

Nevertheless, the Palestinians did not formally turn down the Israeli proposal and were expected to come forward with a counter-offer later on Wednesday.

These talks, which grew out of

last October's historic Madrid peace conference, had been expected to be the last before Israel's general election.

They will end on Thursday after only four days because the Israelis say they must fly home to take part in their country's memorial and independence day ceremonies.

But the Israelis, hoping to help Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's election prospects by promoting his image as a peace-maker, were pressing hard for a new round of talks in Rome before polling day. Again the Arabs, who do not want to help the hardline Shamir in any way, were unenthusiastic but unable to reject the proposal out of hand.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told reporters Tuesday "It is quite clear that the peace process is alive and well... it appears they are engaged on matters of substance."

Mr. Baker also welcomed as "very positive" Monday's relaxation of Syrian travel restrictions on that country's Jewish citizens. But he said it still does not give Syrian Jews the right to emigrate, as strongly urged by the United States.

David Levy, Israel's foreign minister, who met with Mr. Baker, said "there is no reason to

(Continued on page 5)

King, officials review progress in development of education

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein met at the Royal Court Wednesday with members of the education and the higher education councils to review progress in implementing the 1987 national educational plans.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi voiced appreciation of the King's constant efforts to give momentum to the educational process at various stages.

Through the King's constant efforts and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's continued support, the educational process achieved its goals, the minister said.

Mr. Hindawi reviewed the educational process over the past four decades, pointing out the main goals of the national educational plan.

Dr. Victor Billeh from the Higher Council for Science and Technology presented an outline of the educational process over the past four decades, supported



by slides and statistics and the various developments in the field in quantity and quality. The briefing contained figures about the number of students, teachers, schools, and their distribution as well as teachers' training programmes and the expansion in the kindergarten sector together with the reduction in the number of illiterates.

Yarmouk University President Ali Mahabza presented a briefing on the higher educational development in Jordan's four government universities.

Present at the briefings were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Chief of the Royal Court Khaled Al Karaki.

Israel jails 4 Arabs for attack on army camp

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Four Israeli Arabs were jailed for life on Wednesday for allegedly killing three soldiers at an army camp in February.

The defendants entered a courtroom in Nazareth shouting "Allahu Akbar", brandishing copies of the Koran before cameramen and telling reporters they acted in the name of jihad.

Judges imposed three consecutive life sentences on each of the four members of the outlawed Islamic Jihad group, ensuring they would never be freed from prison, the prosecutor said.

The Feb. 15 attack near Kubbutz Galed was the bloodiest since 1987 when a Palestinian flew into Israel from Lebanon on a hang-glider and killed six soldiers.

The defendants were brothers Ibrahim Agbariyeh, 27, and Mohammad Agbariyeh, 24, a relative Yehya Agbariyeh, 24, and Mohammad Tawfik Suleiman Jabareen Said, 40, all from a town and village near the army camp.

The prosecutor said the four never knew their victims but killed them because they were Jews and soldiers. Two of them were Russian immigrants who had been in the army only a few weeks. A fourth soldier was wounded.

The defendants' identification as Israeli citizens was a fresh shock to a country earlier stunned by the ease with which the post was attacked while its soldiers slept.

Police said on Tuesday they arrested 12 more Israeli-Arabs from Islamic Jihad suspected of collaborating with Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

The 750,000 Arabs living in Israel have for the most part been involved in only minor demonstrations of sympathy with the Palestinians in the occupied lands.

A police spokeswoman said the Arabs were suspected of illegally transferring weapons and ammunition to activists in the occupied West Bank for use against Israeli targets.

She said the 12 were Muslim fundamentalists who identified with Islamic Jihad. Two men had admitted receiving a \$5,000 commission for supplying an M-16 rifle and pistols to West Bank activists, she said.

Those arrested were also suspected of illegally selling Kalashnikov and Uzi rifles, knives, handgrenades and a Lao anti-tank missile to Palestinians in the West Bank, she said.

Flag creates problem

A German journalist of Arab descent said Wednesday he was turned away by Israeli officials because he carried a family snapshot with a tiny Palestinian flag in the background.

Ahmad Hazzem, who reports from Berlin for an Arab-Israeli weekly, said he was surprised.

Algerian Supreme Court upholds ban on FIS

ALGER (Agencies) — The supreme court Wednesday upheld the banning of the fundamentalist Muslim opposition party that led violent anti-government protests last spring.

While the decision cannot be appealed, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) could turn to the United Nations' Human Rights Commission to take action, lawyer Ibrahim Taouti said.

The supreme court's decision was a "political gesture" that will lead to "a rapid deterioration of the situation" because authorities will not be able to withstand the inevitable outcome, an FIS source said.

The source, who would not be further identified, would not elaborate on the "outcome," but some of the party's leaders who are not in jail have called for an armed uprising against the army-backed government.

The Supreme Court outlawed the FIS after rejecting its appeal against dissolution and listing a catalogue of crimes attributed to the party.

The court decision ends the legal existence of the party which was poised to win the first multi-party general elections in Algeria in January.

The authorities, backed by the military, cancelled the elections, arrested thousands of FIS supporters and asked the courts to disband the party.

Giving the ruling in a 20-minute session in the panelled courtroom, the presiding judge announced, "the appeal is rejected."

The FIS, however, has said it cannot be crushed by legal order. It describes itself as the conscience of the people and says its message is "a song sung throughout the country."

Its advance towards power, with the promise of an Islamic state, raised the hopes of Muslim fundamentalists in neighbouring states and across the Middle East.

Algeria's relations with Iran came under strain as Tehran applauded the FIS from the sidelines.

A lower court ordered the FIS banned on March 4. The party warned immediately afterwards: "It opens the country to an unknown future, full of serious consequences."

Thousands of FIS militants and

(Continued on page 3)

Mojaddidi takes complete control; Sharif visits Kabul, offers aid

Combined agency dispatches FIGHTERS SUPPORTING the new Islamic government took complete control of the capital on Wednesday and executed a suspected communist secret police agent in spite of a general amnesty.

The day-old government had promised amnesty to all Afghans but former President Najibullah, who remains in hiding. Nevertheless, militiamen allied with the Mujahadeen beat the man and executed him in the street. His body was left beside a burned-out building in the capital.

Militiamen loyal to President Sibghatullah Mojaddidi won control of the capital late Tuesday after a three-hour battle. They captured and jailed about 260 hold-out fighters of maverick leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, according to a guerrilla commander loyal to the new government.

Mr. Hekmatyar heads the strict fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami group. He is a personal enemy of Ahmad Shah Masood, who heads a coalition of more moderate guerrilla forces and supports President Mojaddidi.

Mr. Hekmatyar's fighters were flushed out of the Interior Ministry complex hours after the triumphant arrival of a convoy

carrying thousands of guerrillas and their leaders.

Shellfire boomed in the distance when Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif flew into Kabul airport Wednesday and offered the new government his congratulations and aid worth \$20 million.

Shooting resounded as Mr. Sharif's C-130 Hercules arrived only a day after the airport was badly rocketed, killing the general in charge of security.

As the Hercules circled Kabul two puffs of smoke caused by anti-aircraft fire or rocket-propelled grenades were visible. Mr. Sharif's plane was well out of range.

Congratulations the Mujahadeen, which Pakistan supported through 14 years of war, he called it a great day.

"A new era of peace and prosperity is coming to Afghanistan," he told Mr. Mojaddidi in a meeting at the prime minister's house in Kabul.

"We believe in a viable, stable and peaceful Afghanistan," Saudi Arabia's intelligence chief Prince Turki Al Faisal, a major figure in Saudi support for the Mujahadeen, sent greetings from King Fahd and congratulated the Mujahadeen for "driving from

this country the tyranny of Najibullah."

"This is indeed a glorious day, not only for Afghanistan but the whole of the Islamic community."

Mr. Najibullah remains a fugitive in the United Nations offices in Kabul after failing to flee his capital as guerrillas closed in on April 16.

Mr. Sharif, speaking at a news conference, urged Mojaddidi to include Mr. Najibullah in the general amnesty offered to the former communist rulers who handed over power on Tuesday.

"This is a time to forgive and forget. And I think that Najibullah should be included in the amnesty," he said.

As gunfire reverberated across the capital, Mr. Sharif offered Mr. Mojaddidi \$10 million and 50,000 tonnes of wheat worth another \$10 million in what he called the first instalment of aid to Afghanistan.

Only scattered, isolated explosions and gunfire could be heard Wednesday as capital residents began returning to the streets to shop for food. Electricity and water were out in most of the war-scarred city of 1.5 million

(Continued on page 5)

Libya reportedly dissatisfied with Arab League stand on crisis

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libya is unsatisfied with an Arab League draft resolution dealing with its crisis with the West over Tripoli's alleged role in airliner bombings, delegates said on Wednesday.

"I do not see Libya satisfied," said one delegate.

Delegates say Libya wants a stronger message from the league criticising the U.N. arms and air embargo imposed after it failed to meet an April 15 deadline to hand over two men for trial for their alleged role in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Mohammad Beshari said Libya wanted better relations with the United States.

"We have not presented anything that would embarrass the United States of America," he said as he entered the Arab League building on Wednesday.

"We are having a confrontation and we want a peaceful solution for it. We were friends in the past and we want relations between us to return and that is possible."

A scheduled Arab League

foreign ministers' meeting was due to reconvene late Wednesday to discuss the draft prepared by a seven-nation committee formed last month to try to find a solution to Libya's dispute with the West.

The committee, chaired by Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid, drew up the resolution on Tuesday night but Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa indicated there was little progress.

He said no new proposals had been presented and delegates say the draft resolution reiterates previous statements by the 21-member Arab group expressing moral solidarity with Libya but also stressed Arab compliance with U.N. resolutions.

Sources said Libya has devised a two-part package: Arab governments would stop complying with anti-Libya U.N. sanctions while jointly and publicly asking Libya to accede to U.N. Security Council demands. Faced with apparent pan-Arab pressure, Libya would give in.

Libya broached the plan at a meeting last week between Colonel Muammar Qaddafi and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak,

(Continued on page 3)

To our readers in the United States and Canada

IN ORDER to facilitate and speed up the distribution of the Jordan Times and its sister Arabic paper Al Ra'i, and in an attempt to ease the burden on our subscribers resulting from the high increases in postal charges, we announce that the two newspapers have appointed a representative for them in New York. Our agent, whose name and address appears below, will have copies, ready for distribution, the next day of their publication.

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Last West Bank university reopens

BIR ZEIT, Occupied West Bank (R) — Students at Bir Zeit University streamed back to classrooms without ceremony on Wednesday, four and a half years after Israel closed the occupied West Bank campus because of the Palestinian uprising.

Bir Zeit was the last university reopened in the occupied territories in the past 18 months. Most were closed shortly after the uprising against Israeli rule broke out in December 1987.

"The closure was a political decision. It had nothing to do with the intifada," said Faisal Awad Allah, 36, an engineering professor. "The intifada continued when the universities were closed and will continue now that it's open."

Washington has urged Israel to ease restrictions on the 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and proposed "confidence-building" moves like reopening schools to help along Arab-Israeli peace talks that began in October.

The reopening of Bir Zeit coincided with a fifth round of talks in Washington between Israel and Palestinian, Syrian, Jordanian and Lebanese teams.

Palestinians regard Bir Zeit, 22 kilometers north of Jerusalem, as the most prestigious university because of its high academic standards. Many prominent Palestinian nationalists taught there before it closed on January 8, 1988.

But there were no festivities on Wednesday to mark the reopening of its first two faculties: science and engineering. The 2,500 students will return in stages.

Most students were newcomers and wandered the corridors bewildered, looking for their classrooms. A large map was posted for guidance and desks were strewn in hallways.

The Israeli army kept a low profile. One jeep with two soldiers parked on an approach road to the university searched some students' cars.

During the closure, students studied in cramped, makeshift classrooms in nearby Ramallah. The army turned a blind eye.

Hania Masoud, an observant Muslim wearing a long dress and

headscarf said: "We hope now we won't be dragged around from one place to another. We had a very cold winter and the rooms were not heated. I hope now the situation will improve."

Since becoming defence minister in 1990, Moshe Arens has gradually reopened the six Palestinian universities, where students were accused of inciting protests and stone-throwing.

Students evaded questions about whether they would stage anti-Israel demonstrations that could prompt the government once again to close the university. But there have been few incidents on other campuses since classes resumed.

"The students want to learn and they have suffered a lot in the last four years," said Saleh Saleh, a business administration student who was selling school supplies on campus. "What has been happening to us has been collective punishment."

Bir Zeit's teaching staff includes 13 of the 46 members of the Palestinian negotiating and advisory teams to the peace talks in Washington.

Gabi Baramkeh, acting president of Bir Zeit, said he expected all departments to be allowed to operate by September.

He added: "Bir Zeit has always been a centre for academic excellence, and activism does not necessarily mean violence. I think the students have been using this place properly."

The students' nationalism was evident on opening day. Outside the science building, a large banner read: "Finally, the occupier has realised that the policy of closing the universities is a losing card in front of the uprising."

One student, Saed Abu Beshara, 19, told reporters: "It feels strange to be back. It has been a long time."

Lana Khouri, 21, is majoring in political science, a department that remains closed. Still, she came Wednesday to see old friends.

"I am happy to see the part of the university opened, but I will be happier when I see the whole campus opened," she said.

Israel starts big road for Jewish settlers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel has launched its boldest road project to link occupied Jerusalem to Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, Israel Television said late on Tuesday.

The 12 kilometre long road dotted with tunnels and a bridge will rush thousands of Jewish settlers to their colonies in the heart of the occupied West Bank without passing through Palestinian villages.

"In silence and without publicity, building of the Jerusalem-Gush Tzion road began these days. The price of the road is 100 million shekels (\$42 million) and it is among the most expensive and most complicated engineering projects ever built in this country," Israel Television said.

The television report said the road was meant to by-pass Arab villages and towns on the way to Jewish settlements located between the West Bank towns of Bethlehem and Hebron.

This would ensure Jewish settlers do not encounter Palestinian stone-throwers and cut travel time by about half.

The Peace Now movement said the new road project proved Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had made Jewish settlement of occupied territories a supreme priority at the expense of the rest of the country.

"The project is characteristic of all this government's action. It

symbolises all their unjustified expenditures in the occupied territories. It shows the government has lost all shame," said Amiram Goldblum, a Peace Now spokesman.

A bridge would cross a valley at the start of the road in the Jewish neighbourhood of Gilo in East Jerusalem. Another longer tunnel would stretch 900 metres, the television said.

About 100,000 Jews live in fortified enclaves amid 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Washington expects Israel to quit the occupied territories in exchange for peace with Palestinians and the Arabs.

Prime Minister Shamir, who has vowed never to cede an inch of territory, has sponsored a building boom in the area that could make a land-for-peace increasingly difficult.

Government officials could not be reached for comment.

Roads inside Israel are in serious disrepair after winter flooding while several new roads have been paved in the occupied territories to serve Jewish settlers.

The television report said the public works council had put the cost of fixing all roads nationwide at 30 million shekels (\$21 million), half the cost of the 12 kilometre Jerusalem-West Bank project.



Suleyman Demirel

Turkey woos Kazakhstan

ALMA-ATA, Kazakhstan (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, wooing Muslim-populated republics of the former Soviet Union with warm words and a wallet, arrived in Kazakhstan on Wednesday.

A large white ram was slaughtered at the airport in his honour before he started talks with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Uzakbai Karamanov.

The new U.S. ambassador to Alma-Ata attended the ceremony, reflecting Washington's interest in seeing NATO member Turkey's influence grow in Central Asia at the expense of fundamentalist Islam.

Mr. Nazarbayev, like leaders of other states in Central Asia and the Caucasus, has declared his country's intention to follow the Turkish model of a secular, free market democracy.

Iranian-style Islam is believed to have little appeal in Kazakhstan, where more than two fifths of the population is ethnic Russian and Muslims are well short of being a majority.

Mr. Demirel was expected to offer export and commodity credits to Kazakhstan, which are to receive Turkish Eximbank credits worth \$250 million and \$75 million respectively.

Soft loans will allow the Kazakhs to buy two million tonnes of Turkish wheat and 250,000 tonnes of sugar, and the Kyrgyz to buy 450,000 tonnes of wheat and 50,000 tonnes of sugar.

State-owned Ziraat Bank, Turkey's biggest bank, will explore the idea of a joint venture bank in Alma-Ata and hopes to open at least a branch there and in the capitals of the other republics visited by Mr. Demirel: bank Chairman Coskun Uluoglu said.

"We are talking of trade and commerce, but for that we need the catalyst for such transactions," he told Reuters.

Mr. Uluoglu said Ziraat Bank had agreed to set up a 50-50 joint venture with its counterpart in the Uzbek capital Tashkent, the Agro-Industrial Bank, which controls two thirds of Uzbek banking activities.

The bank would have an initial capital of \$3 million and would concentrate on corporate finance. Turkey sees Kazakhstan as a vital link in its efforts to promote economic ties between Muslim-populated republics.

Kazakhstan, with 16.5 million people, is a strategic nuclear power. It stretches from the Caspian Sea to the Chinese border.

Mr. Nazarbayev has been a fervent advocate of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which emerged from the Soviet Union's collapse in December.

But at a conference of Central Asian states in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek this month he voiced doubts that the CIS could overcome conflicts which have stymied attempts at cooperation.

Political turmoil in Tajikistan has forced Mr. Demirel to cancel a planned stop in Dushanbe, where the Tajik parliament was due to hold an emergency session on Wednesday as groups of pro and anti-government demonstrators staged separate rallies in the city.

Mr. Demirel was scheduled to visit Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan before returning home on Sunday.

Iran's Afghan refugees in no rush to go home

TEHRAN (AP) — Like many Afghan refugees in Iran, Ahmad Islam is constantly on the run, making a meager living working illegally at odd jobs in a land where his countrymen are increasingly unwelcome.

But while Afghanistan is convulsed by fighting and uncertainty, he and his fellow refugees would rather stay in Iran.

"There's going to be a lot of bloodshed as the Mujahideen groups fight among themselves for power," said Islam, 34.

"We don't have much here, but I've seen enough of war. I came here five years ago to escape it and I'm not prepared to go back until there is real peace once more."

Islam works at a construction site. He also lives and sleeps on the site with four other Afghan refugees.

They say they work from dawn to dusk, earning about 4,000 rials (\$2.50) a day. Iranians get 6,000 rials (\$4) a day.

Islam's friend Mohammad Rasoul, 24, the youngest of the group, said: "We live like fugitives, do the dirtiest jobs, live hand-to-mouth. But at least there's no war."

The sentiment is shared by many of the more than two million Shiite Muslim Afghans who fled to Iran. Another three million Sunnis went to Pakistan and many are now trekking home.

In Iran, the biggest Afghan

concentration, about 800,000 refugees live in Khorasan province, bordering their homeland.

Iran's media has reported that several thousand have left Mashhad for home. But there does not appear to be any mass exodus.

Morteza Firoozi, political analyst with the English-language Tehran Times daily, said most Afghans are unlikely to return home even when the civil war ends.

"Unlike Pakistan, where the refugees are kept in camps, in Iran they've become integrated in Iranian society," Mr. Firoozi said.

"Some have made large sums of money and even taken Iranian wives. They'll never return. Those likely to do so are the ones living on the bottom rung of the social ladder."

But Abdul Haq Shafiq, spokesman of the Afghanistan Islamic Unity Party, a coalition of Iran-based Shiite groups, said: "I don't think there's any Afghan who doesn't want to return home when the war's over. When conditions are right, they'll go."

Many Afghans have established businesses and cornered the gold market in Mashhad, Khorasan's bustling capital.

Iranian officials say only 600,000 Afghans are registered as refugees. The rest are illegal aliens.

New Cyprus talks in May

NICOSIA (R) — A United Nations envoy began contacts in Nicosia on Wednesday saying, he expected stalled talks on the problem of divided Cyprus to resume in May.

Oscar Camillon, the U.N. special representative in Nicosia, held talks with President George Vassiliou on Wednesday and is due to meet Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash on Thursday.

He told reporters before meeting Mr. Vassiliou he expected another U.N. official to join him in Cyprus in the next two or three weeks. "The new round of talks would begin 'certainly in May,' and the U.N. team would also probably visit Athens and Ankara, Mr. Camillon said.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops seized the northern third in the wake of a short-lived coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

A U.N. Security Council resolution this month endorsed a report by the secretary-general laying out a set of ideas for a settlement.

Mr. Denktash has welcomed the peace plan as the island's "last and best chance for peace."

Mr. Vassiliou said after a meeting of political leaders in Nicosia last week he was willing to negotiate on the basis of the ideas contained in the report.

Asked whether he was more optimistic after the latest Security Council resolution Mr. Camillon said: "Resolution 750 marks a watershed in the long process of Cyprus... but I always try to keep a healthy cautiousness about Cyprus, so let's wait."

prolonged hells in the war which created a false sense of peace," said businessman Khalid Najjar. "My instincts tell me we're going through another one."

The main impediment to getting Beirut solidly back on the aviation map is Washington's 1985 ban on U.S. flights to the Lebanese capital and on Middle East Airlines' access to American airports.

Lebanese officials say they're working on getting the ban lifted, but so far no positive signals have come from Washington.

The status of Lebanon's only airport has always been a barometer of the political climate.

The airport had its first major taste of war in Dec. 28, 1988, when Israeli commandos blew up 13 Middle East airlines jets in retaliation for guerrilla raids.

In the mid-1980s, Beirut International symbolised chaos. It was fought over by Lebanon's armed factions and was part of the front line during the Israeli army's siege of west Beirut in 1982.

The airport became a favourite destination for extremists who could escape easily into lawless slums ringing the facility.

All told, Beirut was involved in 40 hijackings. A spate of hijack-

Banker in Iraq loan scandal rearrested

ATLANTA, Georgia (R) — A man accused of helping mastermind \$4 billion in illegal loans to Iraq through an Italian bank's Atlanta branch has been rearrested pending his trial, set for June 1, a prosecutor said.

Christopher Drogoul, former manager of the branch of state-owned Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL), was taken into custody late on Monday after a judge in Atlanta revoked his \$100,000 surety bond at the government's request.

"The prosecutors felt there was a risk of flight," assistant U.S. attorney Gertlyn Brill said.

Mr. Drogoul, two other Atlanta officials of BNL and four Iraqis were charged last year with arranging \$3 billion in illegal agricultural loans and credit extensions for the Iraqi government in the mid-1980s.

It has been alleged the huge sums actually went to build up Iraq's military machine.

Last month the other two Americans in the case pleaded guilty to reduced charges after deals with the government.

As their part of the plea bargain, Therese Marcelle Barden and Amedeo Decarolis agreed to help the prosecution's case against Mr. Drogoul, their former boss, who allegedly ordered them to disburse the money to Iraq and conceal the transactions from regulators and BNL headquarters in Rome.

The New York Times reported last month that the administration of President George Bush tried to delay or frustrate the Atlanta investigation of BNL at a time when the administration still hoped to make Iraq an ally.

The Atlanta indictment was announced on Feb. 28, 1991, the day after Mr. Bush declared a ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Mr. Bush's National Security Council (NSC), adviser strongly advocated U.S. farm credits to Iraq, and they were funneled through the BNL, had been a consultant for prior to joining the government, documents released Tuesday showed.

Even NSC adviser Brent Scowcroft was arguing for \$1 billion in farm agricultural credits, BNL-Atlanta, which was to handle the transaction, was under suspicion of conspiring with Baghdad, was disclosed. Some \$800 million of that sum had been guaranteed by the U.S. government.

Beirut airport sheds terror image

BEIRUT (AP) — Beirut International Airport, once a shell-pocked haven for hijackers, is back in business.

Eighteen months ago, only national carrier Middle East Airlines (MEA) and Trans-Mediterranean, a Lebanese cargo carrier, used it.

But since June, after a peace agreement ending the 1975-90 civil war finally took root, 20 foreign airlines have returned with regular schedules, including Air France, Olympic, Alitalia, Egypt Air, KLM and Royal Jordanian.

That's still short of the 35 carriers which used Beirut before the war, but more are expected soon.

"The bad old days are gone — forever this time," said Joe Kai, a manager for Middle East Airlines, which survived 15 years of civil war through the sheer determination of its workers.

"It's the safest place on earth now," Transport Minister Shawkil Fakhourey boasted.

But many Lebanese feel the return to a semblance of normality is illusory and that the sectarian hatreds that flourished during the civil war have not evaporated.

"We lived through plenty of

ings in 1985 chased away virtually all foreign airlines.

During heavy fighting, the airport was shut down, often for months. But just about every time there was a ceasefire, it would reopen and the shell holes in the runways would be hastily filled in.

Sometimes it was only able to operate in daylight because militiamen had stolen the landing light cables or because the radar had been shot up.

But those days seem to be gone.

President Elias Hrawi's government — backed by Syria's military muscle — has disarmed militias and restored control over much of the country, including the beachside airport on Beirut's southern outskirts.

Last Thursday, Syria withdrew 2,000 troops deployed in and around the airport since 1987.

The government plans to expand the airport, and some airlines report bookings running up to 95 per cent of capacity.

Passenger traffic last year numbered around 800,000, well up from 1989, the worst year recorded with only 200,000 passengers. But volume is still well off the 2.3 million people a year who used the airport before the war.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Velayati meets Hizbollah leaders

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met the leadership of Hizbollah (Party of God) on Wednesday and reiterated Tehran's support for its struggle in South Lebanon, Tehran Radio said. Mr. Velayati told Hizbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah and his colleagues in Tehran that Iran "national supports the Muslim struggle in the western Bekka Valley in southern Lebanon," the radio said. Lebanon's Muslim militant led by Hizbollah have stepped up their attacks on Israelis and the pro-Israeli militia in South Lebanon to show their opposition to Arab-Israeli peace talks. Lebanese security sources said Kufaysi rockets slammed into Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon overnight. No group claimed responsibility for the attack. The radio said Sheikh Nasrallah visited the tomb of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on Tuesday and told his son Ahmad that Hizbollah was committed to Ayatollah Khomeini's revolutionary ideals and the leadership of his successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Baghdad power station finishes rebuilding

BAGHDAD (R) — Dora power station, the main supplier to the Iraqi capital, reopened the fourth and last of its generating units on Wednesday after repair of Gulf war damage. The oil-fired station was knocked out of action by U.S. missiles on the second day of the war in January 1990. Damage included the toppling of one of its four main chimneys, now rebuilt. Repairs in the electricity industry, in spite of the lack of equipment barred by United Nations sanctions, have been one of the success stories of Iraq's post-war reconstruction. The national power grid was reestablished last year and supplies for domestic use are generally reliable. Dora's fourth unit adds 160 megawatts of capacity, which will be available for industry and irrigation and will ease the strain on other stations still struggling to keep running with makeshift repair.

Lebanon threatens unlicensed radio, TV

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese government, angered by accusations of corruption and inefficiency, is threatening to close down unlicensed television and radio stations found guilty of flouting a statement published on Wednesday, the cabinet outlined new regulations which Lebanon's more than 100 unlicensed radio and television stations must agree to follow or face closure. The regulations ban the libelling of Lebanese officials and foreign heads of state and the stations from broadcasting any material that could incite sedition or sectarian differences. The public prosecutor would first warn any station breaching the rules. A second violation would lead to a three-day closure and a third violation would be punished by permanent closure. Many Lebanese newspapers, radio and television stations, reflecting public discontent with the government's failure to tackle an economic crisis, have recently stepped up their criticism and accused officials of corruption and inefficiency. Many of the more than 40 television stations and 100 radio stations currently operating in Lebanon are backed by political parties formed by rival militias which were disbanded last year. The cabinet said the unlicensed stations could stay on the air until ministers decide on their future by the end of May.

Kuwait charges editor in secrets case

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has formally charged the editor of a leading Kuwaiti newspaper with publishing what officials say was classified military information. The newspaper Al Qabas said on Wednesday the state attorney general charged its editor Mohammad Jasssem Al Saqr with publishing a military secret and its reporter Khodair Al-Oneizi with obtaining such a secret. It said the two were questioned for six hours on Tuesday and then released on bail of about \$3,500 each. A defence lawyer was present during the interrogation. The Defence Ministry last week brought charges against Al Qabas for publishing a story on a new plan reorganising Kuwait's armed forces, including the names of high-ranking officers and new posts to which they were promoted. Judicial authorities say the story violated state security law, the army law and the press and publication law. Diplomats said Al Qabas has been publishing columns highly critical of government policies since the emirate was liberated from Iraqi occupation in February of last year. The crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, last month told newspaper editors some of what they were publishing was poison and that his patience was wearing thin with some abuses of press freedom.

Drugs seized, smugglers held in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian security forces have arrested 24 smugglers and seized 326 kilograms of narcotics of various types in southeastern Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported Wednesday. IRNA said the sweep lasted for one week, focusing on the cities of Iran-Shahr and Zahedan. Iranian law mandates the death penalty for anyone caught in the possession of even small quantities of drugs. Some 2,000 people have been hanged over the past three years on drug-related charges.

Trial begins in synagogue attack

ISTANBUL (AP) — Trial began Tuesday for two Turks accused in the grenade attack on an Istanbul synagogue, and the defendants said they were tortured while interrogated in front of Israeli secret agents. The prosecution asked that the two be convicted and sentenced each to 36 years in prison for the attack at Istanbul's largest synagogue on March 1, Mahmut Akyol and Nazmi Ortac, both 20, were arrested after the attack, which slightly injured a passerby and did minor damage to the building. Akyol was arrested by a security guard at the synagogue; Ortac was apprehended later. Police identified Ortac as a member of Hizbollah, an Iranian-backed guerrilla group. But Akyol, before the three-judge state security court, denied that he belonged to Hizbollah, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. Anatolia also said the defendants told the court that several people, whose language they did not understand, attended their interrogation at police headquarters and that they later found out they were agents of Mossad, Israel's secret police. Defence attorney Nurettin Yasar said his clients were tortured during their interrogation, Anatolia said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary
18:30 Maguy
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le Crique
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Simpsons
21:10 N.B.A. Basketball
22:00 News in English
22:20 Movie of the Week "Daddy"

PRAYER TIMES

04:22 Fajr
05:47 (Sunrise) Duha
12:33 Dhuhur
16:12 'Asr
19:19 Maghrib
20:44 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh
Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627480
Dr. In Salk Church Tel. 661757
Terrestrial Church Tel. 622266
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

625341, Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628542
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 827881, 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 10 / 24

Aqaba 17 / 29

Deiries 14 / 29

Jordan Valley 13 / 26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 44 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.

It will be fair and winds will be light and variable changing to northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

WEATHER

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mahanoud Omeir 888883

Dr. Nidal Al Dalab 692625

Dr. Fakher Bihici 625778

Dr. Mohammad Al Nakawi 643925

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asana pharmacy 677055

Natour pharmacy 626972

Al Salan pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 661111

Queen inspects projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday visited the villages of Al Husseinieh and Al Hashemieh in the Maan Governorate to inspect a number of projects operated by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

Accompanied by NHF Director In'am Murti, the Queen first stopped at Al Husseinieh to inspect women at their homes involved in weaving projects and listening to a briefing on the progress of the project designed to provide local women with means to improve their family income.

At Al Hashemieh, the Queen visited women who weave and dye work on woven materials and met with the head of the local council and local families.

The Queen last visited the Hashemieh village in 1990 and ordered that the village should be included in the NHF's rural development project. NHF has been organising activities for the local women involved in handicraft and rural development projects and several families have been incorporated in to the project since 1991.

Record rainfall amounts reported for past winter

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cumulative amounts of rain water falling in Jordan between November 1991 and April 1992 was the highest in 70 years, registering 1,113 millimetres at the University of Jordan and 1,136 millimetres in the northern regions, according to Department of Meteorology Director Ali Abanda.

In his most up-to-date statistical report, Dr. Abanda said that record amounts of rain were registered in the past winter season, covering mainly the northern and central regions of Jordan. The amounts that fell in the western parts of Amman, in Balqa and Ajlun, exceeded 1,100 millimetres in average while the average rainfall in Northern Shu'bah was around 900 millimetres, Dr. Abanda noted.

Rain began in November and continued incessantly throughout January and February, accompanied by several snowstorms in most regions at the average of 120 centimetres deep in high regions, he said.

Dr. Abanda said that snow fell in great intensity in Jordan in the months of February and January of the following years: 1927, 1928, 1949, 1950, 1959, 1974 and 1983.

According to Dr. Abdul Aziz Wislah, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA),

Jordan's dams now hold 106.7 million cubic metres of water with the largest dam, the King Talal Dam, containing 80.7 million cubic metres.

The JVA plans to maintain the water distribution programme for irrigation use in the Jordan Valley region in order to irrigate the largest possible area of land planted with vegetables, said Dr. Wislah in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. At the same time, he said, JVA does not intend to restrict farmers' vegetable growing operations in view of the sufficient amounts of water that can irrigate all areas.

But the JVA is at the same time planning to build more dams in order to ensure larger collections of rain water and it plans to raise the walls of the Kafrein Dam and set up desert dams, he added. Once these projects are erected, they will hold at least 349 million cubic metres of water each year, Dr. Wislah noted.

According to Water and Irrigation Ministry Secretary General Mutazz Al Bilbeisi, the Water Authority will cooperate with the Jordanian Armed Forces in dredging old dams in order to remove accumulated residues and sediments and make room for additional amounts of water for irrigation.

Reception held in honour of 'Peace Child' crew

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath Tuesday hosted a reception at Al Hussein Youth City in honour of participants in the 1992 "Peace Child" play hosted by Jordan.

The reception was attended by the organising committees of the play, several ministers, ambassadors of countries participating in the play and families hosting participating children.

Prince Hassan distributed, at the reception, awards for students who occupied the first ten places in a competition to design a motto for "The Peace Child" — Jordan, 1992 musical.

A total of 50 children from 13 world countries, in addition to 300 Jordanian children will participate in the play which will be shown in Amman between April 30 and May 2.

The play has been staged so far in 32 countries around the world and Jordan is the first Arab country to host it. Last year, children from Jordan participated in the "Peace Child" hosted in Scotland. The Jordanian delegation led by Princess Sarvath extended invitations to various countries to participate in this year's performance in Jordan.

Peace Child, a non-profit international educational foundation, aims to bring together children from all over the world in the hope that one day international peace and stability will prevail. In the play, children try to imagine life in 2025 by putting together their ideas, hopes, fears and dreams. The script, actors, dancers and set designers are all children who work together for months in preparation for the actual performance.

Rules made for Valley roads

AMMAN (J.T.) — To facilitate the smooth movement of pick-up trucks to the Jordan Valley and ensure their safety on roads, given the current maintenance work, the Public Security Department (PSD) Friday banned all traffic down to the valley along both the Adasiyyah and Wadi Shueib roads from 3 p.m. until 8 p.m., as traffic on these two roads is only allowed out of the valley.

Under the new arrangements, all lorries and pick-up trucks weighing two and a half tonnes or more are banned from using both roads between 3 and 8 p.m.

The arrangements allow all cars going down to the Jordan Valley or up to Amman to use the Zay-Ardah Road. The arrangements banned the use of rear boxes of pick-ups or lorries for carrying passengers.

Libya unhappy with Arab stand

(Continued from page 1)

Most Arab states, seeking to avoid a clash with the West, have enforced the air and arms sanctions. The embargo also demands the scaling down of Libyan diplomatic missions.

The head of the Libyan mission in Cairo, Ahmad Gaddafidam, said the meetings were still going on but delegates said the league committee had finished its work and would present its report later on Wednesday.

Mr. Gaddafidam, a cousin of Colonel Qadhafi, attended the Arab League meetings on Wednesday.

The league's Lockerbie committee failed in three previous meetings to narrow differences

between Tripoli and the West. "We will ask our Arab brothers during the Arab League Council meeting not to abide by sanctions imposed on Libya," Mr. Beshari said on Tuesday.

The bi-annual foreign ministers' conference has a long agenda dealing with various regional issues like the ongoing Middle East peace process, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Somali civil war, Arab national security and several organisational matters.

Libya, the chairman of the current meeting, requested at Tuesday's opening session placing the Lockerbie dispute on the agenda and all the members agreed.

Delegates said the conference was expected to end late Wednesday night.

Court upholds ban on FIS

(Continued from page 1)

many of its leaders are held in internment camps or jail after two bouts of fundamentalist unrest which led the government to declare a state of emergency.

More than 100 people were killed in street clashes and the authorities on Feb. 9 imposed a state of emergency. Since then, nearly 50 security force members have been killed in ambushes and

isolated attacks. Eight fundamentalists face a military tribunal next Tuesday over an attack in which 10 people were killed in the Algerian capital two months ago.

Another 62 are being tried, some on charges with the death penalty, in the desert town of Ouargla for an attack last November, on the eve of the election campaign, on a frontier post in which three guardsmen were killed and mutilated.

King, premier meet Omani envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Wednesday the head of an Omani court who conveyed to the King greetings from Sultan Qaboos of Oman.

The meeting was attended by Justice Minister Yusef Mubayyeddin and the Omani ambassador to Jordan.

The King and the envoy exchanged views about cooperation between Jordan and Oman in various fields.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Wednesday also reviewed

Omani-Jordanian cooperation in various fields with the visiting delegation representing the judicial authorities in Muscat and expressed Jordan's satisfaction with the process of bilateral cooperation.

The Omani delegation has been holding talks with the minister of justice and other officials over the past few days related to cooperation in judicial matters between Oman and Jordan.

The delegation, led by Saeed Ben Hilal, head of an Omani court, met the prime minister in

the presence of the minister of justice and members of his delegation for a discussion on bilateral cooperation.

The prime minister listened to a review of the outcome of the Jordanian-Omani talks to date and discussed with the two sides scopes of cooperation between Oman and Jordan. The prime minister said that Jordan was keen on promoting and developing bilateral ties in all fields.

The Omani ambassador to Jordan was present at the meeting.

NHF receives \$375,000 grant from USAID

AMMAN — President of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) In'am Murti, the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roger G. Harrison and Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Amman, William T. Oliver signed a grant agreement at NHF this morning.

The grant, which was endorsed by the Ministry of Planning, provides \$375,000 from the USAID-sponsored Private Enterprise Technical Resources Assistance Project (PETRA) to promote the foundation's National Handicraft Development Project (NHDP).

The funds will be used to support the activities of the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, a key component of the NHDP, which offers training and marketing assistance to all interested Jordanian producers of handicrafts.

The Jordan Design and Trade Centre (JDTTC) was established to professionalise handicraft production and marketing activities by encouraging producers to respond to proven market demand, to reduce reliance on informal networks and charity sales outlets, and to establish acceptable standards of operations.

The primary objectives of the project are to create jobs, increase income among low-income communities, and contribute toward the development of women as wage-earners and decision makers.

JDTTC assists existing, independent producer groups and private firms or responds to requests to help new handicraft enterprises become established. In this way,

JDTTC supports over 20 production units throughout the Kingdom. Primary activities include a wholesale showroom where new products are displayed and orders are taken, a sample production unit where prototypes are made and a technical and management training section targeted towards developing sustainable enterprises at the grass roots level.

JDTTC has been active in developing export markets in North America and Europe through participation in major international trade fairs.

Previous PETRA funding to the foundation totalled \$625,000 to cover external marketing efforts, product development, technical and management training, and expert technical assistance.

U.N. publishes population report

By Lima Nabill
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Fresh information on population growth prospects, migration trends, links between this growth and economic growth and the impact of population on the environment are among the highlights of this year's State of the World Population Report published Wednesday by the United Nations Population Fund.

The report calls for immediate and determined action to balance population consumption and development patterns in order to put an end to absolute poverty, provide for human needs and protect the environment. The report, entitled "A World in Balance," publishes revised long-range population projections from the United Nations Population Division, the first such figures in ten years. These figures reveal that the world population in mid-1992 will be 5.48 billion. It will reach six billion in 1998 and the annual addition to world population in the next decade will

average 97 million, the highest in history.

The report said that nearly all of this population growth will be in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The report also reveals that the most likely projection of population growth implies 8.5 billion people by the year 2025 and a near doubling of world population to 10 billion in 2050.

The report said much depends upon action to reduce family size during the next decade and that delay could make a difference of up to four billion to the size of the world's population in 2050, equal to the whole world population in 1975.

The report revealed that developing countries have improved living conditions for increasing proportions of their populations, but it points out that the number of the poor, illiterate and malnourished have continued to climb.

It said ending absolute poverty, improving health and education and raising the status of women will contribute to slower, more

balanced population growth. It called for a sustained and concerted programme to start immediately.

The report called for women's access to better education, health care and family planning and reduction in family size, avoiding births to mother under 20 and avoiding birth's spaced closer than two years apart.

Furthermore, the report pointed out that the increase in population growth can be of detrimental consequence to the environment. It called for expansion of farm lands and control of water consumption, noting that the population growth in developing countries is responsible for around 79 per cent of deforestation.

The report said working towards balanced population growth is part of a broad strategy to reduce environmental impact and achieve the goal of sustainability.

Jordan as venue for Red Cross committee

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has been selected as a venue for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to cover humanitarian related matters in the Middle East region, according to an announcement by the head of the ICRC delegation in Amman, Michel Ducreaux.

Mr. Ducreaux made the announcement Wednesday at a press briefing here during which he said that under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath and with the participation of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), the ICRC delegation is organising an exhibition and seminars on international humanitarian law which will take place from May 9 to 21 at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman. He said that in the framework of this event, the ICRC would like to transmit clear and comprehensive information

to the public about its activities.

Mr. Ducreaux said that Amman was selected as a centre for ICRC Middle East activities in view of the Jordanian leadership's deep concern over the defence of human rights and in light of the atmosphere of democracy prevailing in the Kingdom, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The seminars will shed light on the Geneva Conventions and related protocols concerning humanitarian law and its applications during war or peace time and concerning the treatment of prisoners of war and civilian population alike, Mr. Ducreaux added.

He said that the exhibition will last for 13 days, but the seminars will continue for three days.

Officials from public administrations in Jordan, university professors, students, diplomats, and officials from the Ministries of Information, Education, Interior

and Justice, as well as the Jordanian Armed Forces and representatives of U.N. agencies operating in Jordan, will take part in the event.

Mr. Ducreaux said that Geneva-based experts on humanitarian law will be lecturing at the seminars along with specialists from Jordan and Egypt.

The ICRC office, which has been operating in Jordan since 1967, has been keen on providing services to victims of war and families separated through the Israeli occupation of Palestine as well as services to detainees in the occupied territories and other related tasks.

During the Gulf crisis, the ICRC closely cooperated with the Jordanian government and the JNRCS in helping more than 100,000 evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq by providing relief assistance and setting up camps for the displaced people.

Jordanian delegation to take part in Arab Parliamentary Union meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — A parliamentary delegation led by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat left Amman for Tunis Wednesday to take part in the emergency meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) due to open Saturday.

Dr. Arabiyat, who is accompanied by Dr. Saeed Tal, member of the Senate, and Dr. Abdullah Alkhalil, member of the Lower House, said in a pre-departure statement that the emergency meeting will discuss the on-going events related to Libya's dispute with the Western countries over the Lockerbie affair. He said that

the meeting was called in order to define a par-Arab parliamentary stand vis-a-vis the issue.

In its past meeting, held in January, the APU decided to support Libya and sent joint delegations to a number of nations concerned over the issue to explain Libya's stand, Dr. Arabiyat noted.

He said that the Tunis meeting will review the outcome of the delegation's tours and define steps to be taken in the face of the Western challenge which, he said, is a challenge directed to all nations.

The Libyan dispute with the

Western countries is currently being examined by the Arab League Council in Cairo held at the Foreign Ministers level.

Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, who is attending the sessions, told Jordan Television Tuesday evening that the Foreign Ministers might reach a compromise solution to the issue leading to a kind of reconciliation. Dr. Abu Jaber said that the Arab League meeting was a step in the right direction and Jordan supports a joint effort to reach a final settlement by peaceful means.

U.N. mission to investigate Israeli human rights violations

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-member U.N. fact-finding mission is due here on May 2 on a four-day visit to Jordan during which its members will hold investigations on Israeli human rights violations and conditions prevailing under Israeli occupation rule in Palestine.

An official from the United Nations Development Program-

me (UNDP) in Amman told the Jordan Times that the delegation members, comprising the Sri Lankan U.N. ambassador and representatives from Senegal and Yugoslavia, will be accompanied by a 12-member staff to help the U.N. team carry out its task in Jordan.

The delegation members due from Damascus will hold several

meetings with Jordanian government officials and citizens in the course of their investigations of Israeli human rights violations, the official noted. He said that a full report on the team's work covering contacts and meetings in Syria and Jordan will be submitted to the U.N. Human Rights Committee.

Educational process discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — The overhauling of the educational process in Jordan is comprehensive, covering all educational aspects at all levels related to curricula, textbooks, technical equipment, teachers, school administration, school buildings and legislations on education, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thaqan Hindawi said Wednesday.

The educational process is a national task undertaken by the Ministry of Education and is aimed at benefiting all social sectors in Jordan, said the minister in an address at the opening of a two-day conference on printing and publishing schoolbooks and assessing the Jordanian experiment in book writing.

The meeting, organised by the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the British Council Centre in Amman, is attended by educationalists and experts on book publishing from Jordan and the United Kingdom. The organisers said the participants will review working papers dealing with new school textbooks, the

role of authors and supervising teams in preparing these books, problems facing each party and projected solutions.

The minister thanked Britain for its continued assistance to the Ministry of Education in the field of school textbooks and training teachers in Jordan and abroad. He voiced hope that the Jordanian and British governments would pursue the course of close cooperation with a view to help Jordan benefit from British expertise.

British Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Eyers made a speech paying tribute to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for their keenness in pursuing the educational development process in Jordan.

According to Dr. Ibrahim Al Akash, director of the Ministry of Education's technical education, the conference will review progress in implementing resolutions and recommendations passed by the 1987 National Educational Conference.

WHAT'S GOING ON

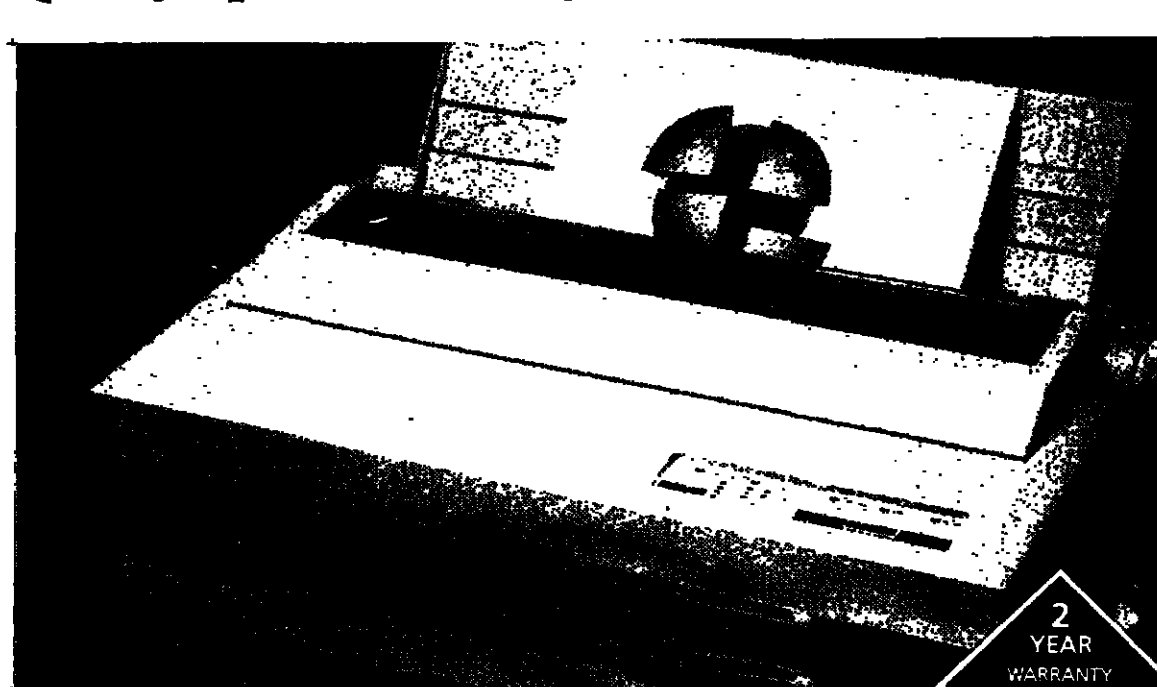
EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of contemporary Canadian art at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.
- ★ Photography exhibition by Jean-Philippe Reverdot at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of seven artists from the occupied territories — Tayseer Barakat, Salehman Massour, Nabil Anani, Vera Tamari, Jawad Al Mahi, Ya'qoub Al Kurd and Khalil Kababeh — at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Hazem Al Bustani at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of books in Arabic at the International Expo Centre, University Road.
- ★ Exhibition of sculpture by Iraqi artists Jalal Al Zuhairi and Amalid Al Hizba at Baladina Art Gallery, Garden Street.
- ★ Exhibition of photos of the Hashemite Royal Family at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Maurice Haddad at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Spring exhibition of Bani Hamida and the Jordan River designs at the Haj Hassan Estate, Abdou Valley Road.
- ★ Turkish handicrafts exhibition entitled "From Yesterday to Today" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "On the Waterfront" at the American Centre — 7 p.m.

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Step in history

THE SYRIAN decision to let go of Syrian Jews and give them the right to travel abroad freely is a step in the right direction on more than one count. From a strictly human rights view, the Syrian Jews are first and foremost Syrian nationals, with the same rights and duties like all other Syrians, irrespective of their faith or ethnic origins. If there is an element of surprise in the Damascus agreement to grant Syrian Jews basic liberties, like the right to leave and return to their homeland, it is the lateness of this important decision. Syrian Jews should have been accorded such elementary rights right from the outset instead of now when it may give credence to the argument that the Syrian leadership has taken this step out of a desire to appease Washington and other Western capitals at a time when the Syrian regime has increasingly become the target of Israeli attacks and accusations that it is still engaged in state terrorism and therefore should continue to be victimised by the principal partners in the new international order. But having taken this important step, Syria deserves to be commended for it instead of watering down the impact of its belated positive decision. Not that the Syrian government is asking for a quick quid pro quo for its good deed. Rather, it is the duty of the international community, including Israel and its allies, to be the first to recognise the significance of this Syrian measure and give it its due.

The Syrian leadership may have aimed to improve the climate of the ongoing peace talks. So it remains to be, in any event, a strong signal from Damascus that it seeks reconciliation and an amelioration of the negotiating atmosphere surrounding both the bilateral and the multilateral peace parleys. This Syrian initiative is also part and parcel of the overall Arab posture that is increasingly bending backwards in order to give peace in the Middle East the chance of a lifetime. The Arab side has yet to receive similar signals from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir if a permanent and just peace in the region is to be attained. Israel would be wrong if it persisted to contend that the more the Arab side is put under pressure the more the concessions that can be extracted from them are.

Where the Syrian Jews who opt to leave their homeland would end up is something that is still open for conjecture. There is always a danger that their loyalty to Syria may have been irrevocably alienated in recent times, especially since the eruption of the Arab-Israeli conflict. And most probably, their first loyalty, like that of all other Jews in the diaspora, is to Israel rather than to the country of their birth and livelihood. Yet, this is a time to make amends and go forward with more and more confidence-building measures. Whether the Syrian Jews, who choose to forsake their country, Syria, would contribute eventually to the peace-building process or not is something that should not affect the manner the subject of Syrian Jewish immigration is to proceed. After all, if they harbour ill feelings for Syria, Syrian best interests would lie more in allowing them to leave rather than in preventing them from doing so. But if they leave with positive impressions, chances are that they may end up building bridges of communication between the two sides.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily bitterly attacked the Western nations, led by the United States for delaying the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Arab-Israeli negotiations, which started in Madrid, then moved to Washington, and one expected later to move to Rome, have led nowhere so far and the Western powers still hold on to what they call the international legitimacy, in name only, while implementing what they interpret of this legitimacy on Iraq alone, the paper said. The U.S.-led alliance did not wait for six months before it launched aggression on Iraq, under the umbrella of the Security Council, but it is delaying the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions passed nearly 25 years ago, the paper continued. The Western colonial powers were impatient with Iraq and used force to evict its troops from the Gulf emirate, but they continue to starve its people and continue to impose an embargo on the civilian population of Iraq, depriving them of the right to exist, the paper added. Nothing is being done against Israel, which continues to defy the U.N. Security Council and its resolutions and consolidate its hold over occupied territory killing Palestinians and seizing Arab land to build settlements, the paper said. No embargo is being imposed on the Israelis to force them to leave Arab territory they have been occupying since 1967, and everything is being done to force the Iraqis to succumb to the will of the colonialists, paper said. It said that with the encouragement of the United States and its allies, Israel has been committing atrocities against the Palestinians and aborting all attempts to reach a final settlement to the Arab-Israeli question, thus rendering the negotiations fruitless.

Following four rounds of fruitless talks between the Arabs and the Israelis in Washington, the Arab parties have decided to postpone all negotiations until after the Israeli parliamentary elections, said Sawi Al Shaab daily. This is a very important step in the right direction, said the paper, in a firm stand on the part of the Arab parties vis-a-vis Israel's procrastination with regard to the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, said the daily. The Arab parties have finally realised that Israel is delaying taking any meaningful decision concerning the future of the occupied Arab lands as long as Likud is in power and pending the outcome of the parliamentary elections in Israel, the paper added. No doubt the Arab parties have gone through a very bitter experience with the Israeli negotiators who have been putting off any discussion of matters of substance so far, the paper said. There is no doubt also that the presidential elections in the United States are also delaying Bush administration firm action vis-a-vis the implementation of resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem, the paper said. It added that the Arab governments have realised that negotiating with the Israelis before the two elections was a mere waste of time and effort, noting that they took the right decision in postponing any future talks until the elections have been completed. It said that the decision, among the negotiators, to stop the talks at this juncture reflects the Arab parties' unity of action.

Danthe Arab-American expert fellow Zionist

By Donald Neff

THERE was an extraordinary spectacle at the annual dinner of Israel's U.S. lobby, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee AIPAC, on April 7. At a time when the U.S. was publicly accusing Israel of illegally transferring American technology and when the U.N. was publicly demanding that Israel stop profanely killing Palestinians, Vice President Quayle addressed some 2,000 of Israel's most ardent supporters as "fellow Zionists."

Mr. Quayle, noted more for his golf game than for his grasp of geopolitics, assured strongly supported Israel despite current tensions over his demand for a settlement freeze in return for a \$10bn loan guarantee. He said: "I am here as George Bush's vice-president to underscore his commitment to Israel. The bumps in the road trouble him and all of us deeply, but they do not change or threaten the basic principles behind our relationship."

But the Israeli supporters were having none of it. Silence or boos greeted mention of Mr. Bush's name, even when Mr. Quayle sought to assure the group that Mr. Bush's public complaint last autumn about pro-Israel lobbying did not mean to imply Jews were displaying dual loyalty. In fact, the anti-Bush mood was such that AIPAC's executive director, Thomas Dine, issued what amounted to a declaration of war against Mr. Bush's Middle East policies.

Mr. Dine lambasted Mr. Bush's September remarks, saying the president had "questioned the right of American citizens... to lobby on this issue. Like the Indian elephant, we shall not forget. We are not going away. We are here, and we will not be intimidated." Nor, warned Mr. Dine, was the loan guarantee issue over yet: "We cannot and will not give up until we succeed. Ultimately, we will succeed in securing these guarantees. Our work just begins. We need to find new friends to bring to Congress."

For Mr. Bush, that was not welcome news. Though small in numbers, the Jewish community exercises a major political influence through campaign donations to those who support Israel. It was this fact that helped explain why — when Israel's reputation is lower than ever — 46 senators and 72 representatives were concerned enough to cultivate Jewish support in the coming elections to attend the annual dinner and gave a ringing support to America's "fellow democracy" — Middle East International.

AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) held its 1992 Policy Conference in Washington on April 5-7. NAAA (National Association of Arab Americans) Executive Director Khalil Jahshan, in a memorandum issued on April 9, 1992, makes an evaluation of the conference, noting that the strongest pro-Israel lobby group in the U.S. was on the defensive after the U.S. postponed granting an Israeli requested loan guarantees of \$10 billion last year. AIPAC members were urged at the conference to redouble effort on the loan guarantees and to adopt a unified stand regarding unconditional aid to Israel, Mr. Jahshan said. Following is the full text of his evaluation, which NAAA made available to the Jordan Times:

Congressional, community, and AIPAC speakers made many comments about keeping disagreements within the community, refraining from public statements, and keeping disagreement "inside the tent." The frequency and fervor of their protests on this core appears to indicate a high level of anxiety, both in terms of the likelihood of such disclosures and the damage they could do to AIPAC's position.



The Israeli government was represented by Ambassador Zelman Shoval. He was a lower-ranking official than had been seen in 1990 and 1991, when Israeli Cabinet members attended the AIPAC conference. Mr. Shoval spoke on behalf of the Israeli "maximalist" position, advocating, for example, the unrestricted right of Israeli citizens to settle in all parts of "Eretz Yisrael." About 20-30 per cent of the crowd stood up and cheered this statement; the rest appeared far less enthusiastic.

AIPAC speakers, including newly elected President David Steiner, Executive Director Thomas Dine and Representative Lawrence Smith, (Democrat from Florida), expressed outrage over President Bush's speech of September 12, 1991, which they characterised as an attack on their civil right to petition Congress. Speeches by Republicans praising Mr. Bush for his efforts on behalf of Israel seemed to get a positive response from no more than about 20-25 per cent of the crowd, and comments by Democratic speakers "alleging that Mr. Bush was no friend of Israel were welcomed by 60-70 per cent.

AIPAC officials, however, were careful to avoid an explicit call for Mr. Bush's ouster, although Mr. Dine did term the day of Mr. Bush's speech in which he described himself as one person against 1,000 (AIPAC) lobbyists as "a day that will live in infamy." Mr. Steiner stated that he became euphoric listening to speeches by Chairman Ron Brown of the Democratic National Committee and keynote speaker Senator Joseph Biden, Democrat for Delaware, but failed to single out for praise the no less pro-Israeli speeches of Senator Connie Mack, Republican from Florida, and Richard Bond, Chairman of the Republican National Committee. In other words, he appeared to single out Democratic statements for favour, while ignoring Republican speeches that were no less friendly to Israel.

Keynote speaker Biden claimed that U.S. administration policy towards Israel was "absurd" and would lead to "atrocities." U.S. pressure on Israel, he contended, would lessen Israeli flexibility in the peace process and appeared to be really intended to force the Israeli electorate to vote. Mr. Shamir out of office, Israel, he went on, was an asset for the United States and had been instrumental in defeating what he described as "anti-Western Pan-Arabism. The United States, he said, owes Israel. Audience applause appeared to be strong and supportive, but few people (estimated at 10 per cent of the audience) gave a standing ovation to these remarks. Mr. Biden called on the American Jewish community to stop arguing in public about Israeli policy, chastised the audience for hesitancy in promoting the cause of Israel, said that supporters of Israel had nothing to apologize for, and explained that "you don't have to be a Jew to be a Zionist." These statements appeared to be met with minimal applause and some embarrassment.

Vice President Dan Quayle opened his speech by addressing "Fellow Zionists!" a statement that received thunderous applause. Mr. Steiner had earlier described Mr. Quayle as Israel's best friend in the administration and "a heartbeat away from the presidency," and claimed he deserved the credit for the 1991 repeal of the 1975 U.N. General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism. Mr. Quayle received equally thunderous applause when he affirmed the United States and Israel would be friends forever. His statement that George Bush was a true friend of Israel, however, evoked

boos and hisses from the crowd. Representative Smith expressed his "outrage" over what he termed the president's attempt to condemn the American Jewish community for its support of Israel, and had characterised the community as if American Jews were "fifth columnists." Mr. Bush, he went on, had "poisoned the well" and his statement had helped spur anti-semitism across America. These allegations were greeted with enthusiasm by the crowd.

Initiatives

AIPAC plans to concentrate on three main efforts between now and the election. The first is to try to obtain unconditional loan guarantees — the full \$10 billion — or, at least, to lay the groundwork for such guarantees. Second, AIPAC will try to inform both Congress and the American people of the economic benefits of both the guarantees and the "standard" Israeli loan package. Third AIPAC will lobby against the proposed sale of 72 American F-15 fighter aircraft to Saudi Arabia on the grounds that it will threaten Israel.

AIPAC speeches indicated that the lobby intends to strike at Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker for what it termed their support and intervention on behalf of unconditional loan guarantees to Iraq before the Gulf war. These guarantees, they claim, have already cost the U.S. taxpayer over \$300 million. Mr. Bush will be depicted as a friend to tyrants and despots (including, they contend, King Hussein of Jordan) and an opponent of the "only true democracy in the Middle East."

Other initiatives will include: — Support of the peace process via direct negotiations, and for the multilateral talks on regional issues;

— Calling for the unilateral end of the Arab economic boycott, public remarks by Arab governments critical of Israel, and the state of war against Israel;

— To increase U.S. economic and strategic cooperation with Israel;

— To combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East;

— The halting of the intifada and all other acts of violence against Israel and moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem.

These, however, will receive less attention.

Composition

Thomas Dine claimed that over 2,100 participants were present, of which 1,015 were students.

A total of 46 senators and 78 representatives were present at the gala dinner banquet. AIPAC states that the number of senators attending is a record, but the number of representatives present represents a decline from the nearly 100 representatives who attended in 1990. AIPAC Legislative Director Ester Kurz explained that many members of Congress were in their home districts to campaign.

LETTERS

Professional reporting

To the Editor:

Your publication of the contents of the Kuwaiti embassy's statement in Amman, in which it protested the attitude of some Jordanian writers towards the U.N. decision on the delineation of borders between Kuwait and Iraq, deserves a standing-ovation.

First, it is only professional to, at least, report the news. Second, democratic practice should not be shied according to whims, and cannot be healthy, if practised here and ignored there.

It is time some journalists understood that democracy is a two-way street.

Of course this has nothing to do with the U.N. decision on the delineation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders, which is only one of the many tragic results of the Gulf crisis.

This case is just another reminder of the abused and the abusers, of the state of open-mindedness in our Jordanian society.

A concerned
Jordanian citizen

The right to opine

To the Editor:

Mr. Ara Voskian, in his letter titled To Call a Spade a Spade of April 26, is surely entitled to disagree with the views expressed by Mr. Ali Dincer on the Karabakh (a Turkish word meaning black vineyard) crisis and to express his own. I was dismayed, however, to see that he also felt entitled to avail himself of your indulgence to go on to incriminate Turkey — totally out of context — with his version of the tragic events that took place 80 years earlier. I deem it pointless to argue with him on those events, their origins or the circumstances enveloping them, which must be left to the analysis and judgement of unbiased historians. Suffice it to say, nonetheless, that few respected historians are willing to be impressed by Mr. Voskian's propagandistic allegations. Incidentally, the Ottoman archives — and others — are available to whoever is bold enough to face the facts as they were.

The approach of Mr. Voskian to the ongoing Karabakh dispute is not less disturbing. I was truly upset to note that a citizen (I presume) of Jordan — our country which cherishes the principle of non-acquisition of territory by force as the main pillar of its foreign policy — could so unscrupulously approve aggressive policies of expansion when it comes to Armenia. Mr. Voskian must be reminded that not only Mr. Dincer and/or his colleagues in the Turkish Parliament, but all CSCE countries — and decent people everywhere — have censured attempts by Armenia to change forcibly the internationally recognised status of Karabakh.

As for Mr. Voskian's Armenian aspirations directed towards Turkish territory, let us hope, for the sake of all concerned, that such fantasies are his alone and do not correspond to the vision of people who hold responsible offices in Yerevan.

Ferdia Soleiman,
P.O. Box 425017,
Jabal Nasser,
Amman.

Peace through justice

To the Editor:

I wish to comment on the letter "Peace option" of April 23, 1992. With all respect to the opinions expressed in the letter, I am afraid that distortion of historical facts and ignorance of the realities on the ground may make a peaceful solution doubtful and may even escalate the ongoing undeclared war between the Armenians and Azeris.

Being a teacher of history, I wish to refute the accusations thrown so mischievously at the Armenians.

The letter mentions Armenian atrocities perpetrated at Khojaly on February 28, 1992. (A) From the first days, pictures of these so called atrocities were refuted by French TV correspondents as fabricated. (B) The American correspondent was taken from Baku to Khojaly that same day, since the Armenians had given 48 hours for the evacuation of Azeri civilian population and the removal of Azeri missiles which were pounding the city or Stepanakert. The Azeri civilians did not move and were caught in cross fire. However, this same American correspondent was obliged to rescind his eyewitness report a few days later in a long, second article in the Boston Globe. He ended his report by saying that he couldn't understand "how Azeri women and children were killed and mutilated so near to the safety of Azeri lines," which gives credit to the Armenian argument that the Azeri Omon security forces themselves organised some of the killings as a propaganda stunt to impress the American correspondent and world public opinion. (C) It is also very interesting that Mr. Mutalibov (former president of Azerbaijan) in an interview in Moscow on April 2 — Nezavisimaya Gazeta — with a Czech correspondent confessed openly that the Khojaly scenario was "the work of Azeris."

Nagorno-Karabakh is completely inside Azeri territory, 4,000 square km. out of 86,000 square km. of Azeri territory. The Azeris are about 5 million inhabitants while the people of Karabakh do not exceed 200,000. The Azeri forces are far more numerous and better equipped with weapons coming from brotherly neighbours. More than half the buildings in Stepanakert (the capital of Karabakh) have been bombed and demolished while TV pictures show Armenian militiamen with outdated shotguns and Kalashnikovs, fighting a hit and run guerrilla war. For the shoguns of Karabakh, it is a defensive war of survival. A war thrust upon them by Azeri cruelties and violence. No self-respecting person can deny the massacres of Sumgait and Baku in February 1988 or the annihilation of the towns of Kirovabad, to mention only one of the 43 villages burnt by Azeri irregulars.

The Armenians are defending themselves. They are obliged to defend their homes, their children, their farms and their lives. To say that the Armenians have aggressive intentions, is to make a mockery of simple logic.

It is the Azeris who have aggressive intentions. Wasn't it Mr. James Baker who, months ago, said that the Azeris were arming? I would say, being armed. Taking advantage of the chaos following the demise of the Soviet Union they wish to solve, once and for all, the Karabakh problem just like their brothers in 1915, who, while World War I was raging on, solved the Armenian problem in blood, by massacring close to two million innocent Armenians and burning thousands of Armenian villages — the first genocide of the 20th century which went unpunished.

As regards the argument that Karabakh was never ruled by Armenia, I wish to point out that by the treaty of Turkmen Chai in 1828, lands north of the river Arax were incorporated into the Russian Czarist empire. There were no Azeri people then, only Turkic speaking Tatar and Mongol tribes, semi-autonomous khanates like the khanate of Baku, Karabakh, Shirvan, Yerevan, Nakhichevan, and others. (The name Azeri was first used in 1919). The Armenians had been living in those mountainous regions for thousands of years. Perhaps if proper human rights were respected, it would still be possible for the two ethnic groups to co-exist and work for a better life for both.

It is true that the CSCE decided that political frontiers should remain unchanged. But the letter does not mention that the same CSCE also decided that Karabakh should be granted complete and real autonomy. The Armenians are fighting, are obliged to fight, for their centuries-old homeland, just like other oppressed people all over the world.

The Armenians of Karabakh have, from the very first day in 1919 when the region was temporarily put under Azeri jurisdiction through the machinations of the Turkish government, pending the solution of the Armenian question at Versailles in 1919, protested and rebelled against this unjust arrangement, first orchestrated by the Britons in 1919 (in return for Baku oil) and later consecrated by Stalin in 1923. They have over the past 70 years petitioned Moscow, many times, asking for real cultural and economic autonomy and a desire for self-determination leading to unity with Armenia.

It is wrong to say that Armenian, nationalistic and expansionist intentions are endangers "peace." It would be true to say that unless the rights of small nations are respected, unless injustices committed by the strong are rectified, there will always exist unexpected dangers to world peace.

Anahid Diran Voskitchian,
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The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

United Germany has growing pains as it seeks new identity

By Maud S. Beelman
The Associated Press

BONN, GERMANY — A united Germany is having a hard time finding its place in a changing Europe.

A country of 80 million, Germany has economic might and a geographic location that makes it a political linchpin of Europe.

But 18 months after unification, a Germany burdened by its Nazi past is still learning its new role.

Even as President Richard von Weizsaecker makes his first state visit to the United States this week, there is controversy over how Germany's past should guide its future.

"The general problem of the Germans is that in the World War II, we were an occupation power everywhere," said Jochen Thies, editor of Europa-Archiv, the German society for foreign policy journal.

"When you always argue the World War II, how can you then allow the Germans to take over any responsibility?"

Before unification, West Germany was a loyal and largely quiet behind-the-scenes player in the western alliance. Since 1990, however, Germany has become active in foreign policy, especially on such issues as Yugoslavia.

In the developing countries of Eastern Europe, German companies have moved in rapidly.

Germany has sunk billions of marks into the former Soviet Union, in part to secure Moscow's approval for unification.

It is the largest foreign investor in Poland and provides nearly 70 per cent of foreign investment in Czechoslovakia. The German mark is Eastern Europe's shadow currency, and Germany competes with English as a second language.

"The Deutsche marks will go further than the tanks ever did," said Andrei Markovits, a German specialist at Harvard University's Centre for European Studies.

But the economic dominance, combined with Bonn's more aggressive foreign policy, a growing right wing and Chancellor Helmut Kohl's highly publicised meeting with Austria's Nazi-tainted president blur the picture of a Germany with specific goals.

"The Germans have difficulty in defining their future role. Actually, they don't want to play any additional roles," said Horst Tetschik, Mr. Kohl's former foreign affairs adviser.

"The Europeans expect from Germany a stronger role, more responsibility, and the Germans, in my view, don't know how to react to this. The past is still part of our fate, and we have to take it into account in everything we do."

Mr. Thies said there was "no master plan" for German hegemony, adding, "we are by far less certain about things than we may look."

But German leaders are clear on the need for economic support of the political reforms in Eastern Europe. When refugees flee Yugoslavia or Romania, many come to Germany. The influx has fueled xenophobia and attacks on foreigners. Politicians are locked

in debate over whether to change the constitutional open-door asylum policy and write an immigration law.

Der Spiegel, the influential weekly, recently concluded that Germany is on its way to European supremacy without having defined its own future.

The government sends some conflicting signals.

Shortly before the state elections in early April, Mr. Kohl ended the international isolation of Austria's Kurt Waldheim by meeting him in Munich. Mr. Kohl then lashed out at Jews who criticised the meeting.

Earlier, Germany had slapped an arms embargo on NATO-ally Turkey, condemning its use of German-supplied weapons to fight Kurdish rebels.

President Turgut Ozal of Turkey followed with a salvo of his own, saying a united Germany was acting a lot like Hitler's Germany.

Although Germany is a leading proponent of European unity, it rejects pleas from the European Community and Washington that it should lower interest rates to promote economic growth.

Questions about Germany's new role began just months after unification, when Bonn refused to send troops to the Gulf war, citing a constitutional prohibition that scholars later questioned.

Then late last year, Germany forced fellow European Community members into recognising the breakaway Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia. Serbia accused Germany of planning to create a fourth Reich.

Mr. Kohl's insistence that Germany become an official European Community language and suggestions that Germany deserves a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council further fuel questions about German intentions.

Much of German foreign policy has been driven by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. But Mr. Genscher announced Monday that he is stepping down, and some policy changes may be in store.

Michel Friedman, a member of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, says policy seems based on outmoded ideas and a lack of vision.

"For a society which is in such change, this is a very difficult thing. There are no impulses of ideas or visions where to go with this big Germany," said Mr. Friedman, a Frankfurt lawyer.

He said the attraction of right-wing parties to young voters and the economic burdens and integration problems of unification create "a very dangerous period in Germany."

But he and others say Germany and its critics must walk a fine line between guarding against the dangers and overemphasising them.

"I think we have to be very cautious interpreting what Germany does, paying too much heed to what Germany did 50 years ago, and perhaps give it a little more credit for working with European partners," said Jeff Thimmes, deputy director of the Aspen Institute in Berlin.

Weekender

Working towards a smile on the faces of the handicapped

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Everyone has some kind of disability, we all have our weak points. Some of these disabilities are more clear to the eye than others." This is the way Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid views the state of handicapped people in society, to whose training and welfare he dedicates a great amount of his time in his capacity as president of the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped (JSFH).

A section of society not very often talked about, the handicapped are of growing and constant concern to communities worldwide. Within Jordan's limited abilities, the handicapped in the Kingdom are steadily getting the care and attention they need in specialised centres throughout the country. There is still however a lot of work to be done.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Prince Ra'ad underlined the importance of seriousness and continuity in welfare work so as to reap the maximum degree of positive results. He talked of the beginnings, expansion, achievements, problems and future hopes of the JSFH.

Care for the handicapped in Jordan has come a long way since its modest beginnings two decades ago. A lot of effort has been exerted to upgrade the facilities and

training programmes in centres throughout the country. Today there are 50 specialised centres working closely to coordinate their interrelated task of providing greater inclusion and opportunities to handicapped people.

The JSFH was founded in 1981. It was initially the idea of the late Co. Yusef Al Karmi who, at the time, recommended that a federation be formed to group all centres for the handicapped.

Through its activities and coordination with the centres, the JSFH hopes to use sports as a tool for the development, training and enhancing of handicapped persons' abilities as they can be better integrated into society as productive self-dependent individuals.

The aims of JSFH include: Overall development of the handicapped community; acquainting the public with the work regarding the handicapped; encouraging their integration into society; exchange of expertise with the Arab and international organisations specialising in sports for the handicapped; and holding national sports competitions and arranging for handicapped Jordanian athletes to compete in international championships.

Centres for handicapped in Jordan deal with physical and mental hand-

icaps. Among the centres affiliated with the JSFH are Farah—the Royal Jordanian Rehabilitation Centre, Mafraq Care Centre, Zarqa National Club for the physically handicapped, Nazik Al Hariri Special Education Centre, the Special Education Centre-Young Women's Muslim Association, the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief, Al Noor Institute for the Blind, Queen Alia Centre for the Deaf, Russaifa, the Holy Land Society For The Deaf-Salt and many others.

Prince Ra'ad said that there were now specialised centres throughout the capital, and in Zarqa and Irbid. There is a need, however, to have centres in other governorates like Karak and Aqaba, he added.

Jordan had its first handicapped sports team in basketball in 1982-83. Over the years other sports, such as athletics, table tennis, handball, soccer, weight-lifting, volleyball and most recently archery and fencing, were introduced.

Jordanian handicapped athletes have taken part in international championships such as the Stoke-Mandeville Games, the World Wheelchair Games, the International Special Olympics in 1987 and 1991 as well as European, Arab and local competitions.

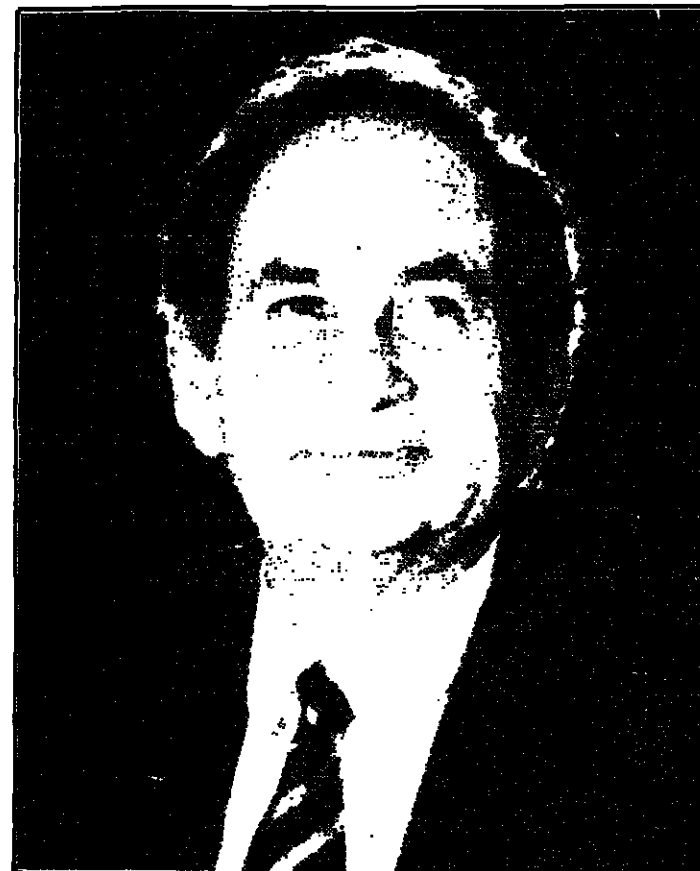
Another branch dedicated to the welfare, training and

development of the mentally handicapped is the Jordan Special Olympics Organisation which also coordinates with the JSFH but has been given an independent status since 1987.

One of the biggest centres dealing with the mentally handicapped is the Nazik Al Hariri Centre for Special Education founded in 1984 in Amman. The centre aims at training the mentally handicapped in academic skills, providing social education, recreation and medical care to the mentally handicapped and family counselling to their parents. Among the centre's other aims is providing technical know-how, training and up-to-date information to instructors, coaches and those involved in the welfare of the mentally handicapped.

To this end the Nazik Al Hariri Centre's latest activity was a ten-day training seminar conducted by an American specialist in the field of Special Olympics. The seminar, organised by the Jordan Special Olympics Organisation in cooperation with Sports America and the American embassy in Amman, aimed at providing instruction in the Special Olympics programme in general as well as the skills, regulations and rules of athletics and gymnastics. The specialist, Trina Stein, who is a member of the Idaho Special Olympics Organisation, had also visited Spain, Morocco, Columbia, as well as making extensive travels throughout the United States. "I'm very impressed with the different, individual centres for the handicapped in Jordan," she told the Jordan Times.

Thirty-five instructors and coaches participated in the training seminar held at the



Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid

Nazik Al Hariri Centre and at the JSFH. According to Ms. Stein, participants would come out knowing the techniques of training the mentally handicapped in athletics and gymnastics.

Dr. Yasser Salem, director of the Nazik Al Hariri Centre and national director of the Jordan Times that the Kingdom had become a member of the International Special Olympics in 1986 and that a lot of effort was being made to assure the continuity of training the mentally handicapped all-year round. In addition to participating in the 1987 and 1991 Special Olympics, Jordanian athletes also took part in the 1990 European Championships in Scotland, which were also attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Jordan Special Olympics athletes hope to take part in the 1995 Summer Olympics, due to take place either in Athens or Dallas.

Work in the care and train-

ing of the handicapped still has a long way to go. Organisers face lack of funds and human resources such as trainers, instructors and volunteers. There is also the need for more centres in the country.

"Effective, serious, consistent and responsible organisers and officials are needed to assure the continuity and upgrading of the current facilities and services," Prince Ra'ad said.

"We need people to reach out and help in any way possible. This kind of work requires that everyone work together to help as much as possible. We've achieved quite a lot in a short time, but there's still much to be done."

"Working with the handicapped requires understanding, awareness and patience. I hope the young generation will play a bigger role in the future. Putting a smile on a handicapped person's face gives one an immense sense of achievement," Prince Ra'ad said.



The physically handicapped during basketball training session.



Jordan's delegation takes part in the parade of the International Stoke Mandeville Games in the United Kingdom in 1986.

Shock, ouch then come Moscow's other surprises

By James Flannery
Reuter

MOSCOW — Getting a visa for Russia can be a terrible chore for visitors. Then arrival brings on Moscow shock. Soon after that Moscow belly.

By then you're ready for anything — and there's plenty of that in this city, experienced in fending off invaders. It's a specialty of mother Russia's capital to wringfoot, delight, and often infuriate the foreign traveller.

The citizens themselves seen bemused but over the centuries they have developed a stoicism amid difficulties that would spark civil disorder elsewhere.

Visa-seekers report seeing pamphlets on "fighting bureaucracy" at their local Soviet consulate. But it's still possible for an applicant to be processed very s-l-o-w-l-y,

and not cheap and then only after hours of queuing and baffling lectures.

Russians save visa system at Western embassies in Moscow isn't wonderful, either.

"Moscow shock. Sometimes it hits you sooner, sometimes later," foreign correspondent Conrad wrote in an article in the Moscow Times under the wry headline "come home."

"In this case was wading through a puddle in the men's toilet at Pulkovo Airport wondering where all the light bulbs had gone."

"Moscow: of the most exciting cities in the world. Sure. One of the most challenging? Of course. Glad to be back? Eh... not exactly."

Mr. Conrad's experience is duplicated by times daily. You may have been pampered on your international

flight. But touchdown plunges you smack into Russian life.

Huge queues snake toward passport booths staffed by boyish-looking border guards in green uniform who gaze at the back (yes, back) of your head via a specially angled mirror, the only other use of which might be to detect the presence of a dwarf trying to sneak in undetected.

The place is in semi-darkness. Trolleys have disappeared. Customs rules are so restrictive you have almost no chance of using the green (nothing to declare) channel, which stays empty while the red channels are clogged.

Fancy a meal at certain restaurants? Only if the worst comes to the worst, says one guidebook. No, even worse could follow —

Moscow's brands of stomach upsets are pretty ferocious. Count on being fairly ill.

You travel along sweeping 10-lane boulevards. Then you turn off into a sidestreets crisscrossed with potholes that would shame the most cash-strapped Third World State.

This combination of grandeur and shabbiness is Moscow's trademark.

Caviar is cheaper than mayonnaise. The food shops contain skeletal chickens and fairly intimidating sausages. The city is thick with repair shops, for this is a society where things are fixed, never thrown away.

Marketing, creating consumer demand, advertising — these scarcely exist.

Some business methods sound bizarre. For budding equestrians, a riding school advertises lessons, with the proviso: "Bring your own horse."

A Record of the month. A bookshop has hawkers inside and out selling the stock at different prices.

On the justly famous underground railway system, a passenger beside you is just as likely to be reading philosophy or carrying a spare car door.

Stately buildings of the 18th and 19th centuries are slowly crumbling away, but their lime, yellow and mauve pastel facades are still beguiling.

Stalinist skyscrapers and hideous high-rise apartment blocks dot the horizon. But there are many charming tree-lined vistas.

More surprises — and they show Moscow is not so different from anywhere else, really.

A politician confesses in the papers that he used to be a long haired dropout. The city not only has McDonald's sell-

ing millions of hamburgers but a sex shop with inflatable dolls. The gum-chewing cops in patrol cars look Hollywood-ish.

Madonna is honoured in street banners and there's going to be a rock concert in Red Square.

"The joy of sex" is the city's number three best seller at 250 roubles on the street — a week's salary for some office workers — after two books on business and psychology.

A soap opera in the tradition of Dallas or Cheers is starting on Moscow television, mocking the nation's current obsession with commerce. "If it's anything like real life, it will be a laugh a minute," a commentator said in the weekly Guardian publication.

For better or worse, Russia is joining the rest of the world.

BOOK REVIEWS

Catalogue of disasters

Payback: America's Long War In The Middle East

By John Cooley.

Brassey's, Washington and New York 1991, \$19.95

"Payback" is retribution wrought against the U.S. by both vengeful regimes and individuals harmed by U.S. policies in the Middle East. It is not a new concept: it was first suggested in 1949 by the then secretary of the navy, James Forrestal, who said that the U.S. would have to pay a political price for its support of Israel, which it has. And this has been documented in considerable detail elsewhere.

John Cooley focuses on the "payback" which flowed from U.S. support of the Shah of Iran; "payback" which has come in the form of anti-U.S. violence such as the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, attacks against embassy premises and the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, kidnapping, holding and killing of American (and other Western) citizens, the destruction of the Pan Am aircraft over Lockerbie in 1988.

In John Cooley's view, Washington's fatal fault was to base its regional policy on three pillars — Iran, Israel and Saudi Arabia. The U.S. defined its relations with these countries in terms of the cold war with the Soviet Union. Thus, they became the U.S.'s assets, outposts in the struggle with the Red Peril. The author, who for some time covered the Pentagon, is particularly informative on U.S. intelligence-gathering installations in Iran; he makes it clear that preservation of these assets became the focus of Washington's political planning.

"Of these three pillars only Israel was approached by the U.S. as a country, occupied by human beings with needs and demands — thanks to the pro-Israel lobby in the U.S. — while Washington's relations with the other two were through monarchic regimes distant from the people — the Shah's Iran and the Saudis' Arabia. For the U.S., the citizens of these countries simply did not matter. They could be ignored or managed, bought off with oil money or suppressed."

The author describes how, during the Iran-Iraq war, the U.S. supplied weapons and intelligence material to both sides, helping to keep the war going. This created bitterness and a thirst for revenge in both Tehran and Baghdad. Iraq's seizure of Kuwait was partly "payback" for that policy of playing off the two countries against each other, partly for what Iraq saw as a U.S.-inspired campaign waged by Washington's ally, Kuwait, to keep oil prices low through over-production and wreck the Iraqi economy. The U.S. response to this massive Iraqi miscalculation was the disproportionate "payback" of "Desert Storm," the mostly negative consequences of which can be expected to dominate the region for the next ten years, as the overthrow of the Shah dominated it after 1979.

Payback is a useful contribution to contemporary history, enabling its readers to assess how the U.S. responded to the rush of incidents and events in the region during the last ten years.

Particularly useful, because the book provides complete coverage of various happenings which the media — dominated by the scoops of the moment, hour and day — only partially cover. Thus, readers can discover details and denouements of stories which broadcasters and pressmen left suspended. All depressing, for the book is a catalogue of disasters — Middle East International.

Michael Jansen

Limited Sway

Superpowers And Client States In The Middle East: The Imbalance Of Influence

Edited by Moshe Efrat and Jacob Bercovitch
Routledge, London 1991, £35.00

According to Sir Patrick Wright, who briefly introduces this collection of studies, it is a "recurrent misunderstanding" to believe the superpowers, the United States and Soviet Union, dictated the policies of small states allied or associated with them. The seven academic analysts of Middle Eastern international relations who contribute to this work show that in this sense the superpowers are not necessarily powerful in effect: that a small client state may "enjoy undreamt of freedom of movement and exercise power out of all proportion to its size or strength," and that relations between client and patron countries may "change from gratitude, obligation and commitment to manipulation, resentment and penetration."

The thesis bears repetition. History teaches that it is frequently small powers, their fears, ambitions and insecurity or vainglorious rulers, who provoke conflict, where great powers, by definition more mature and stable, may be bounced into hostilities on their behalf. Two examples of this "ambiguous dynamic of the relationship between client state and superpower," the cases of Israel and the U.S. and Syria and the USSR between 1970 and 1985, are the particular subject of these studies. The outcome is a rather dreary chronicle of ministerial visits, agreements, instruments of "friendship and cooperation," "thorough and fruitful exchanges of opinion" and other coded communications, and of course economic and military aid. And the outcome of that examination is a sad catalogue of expenditure on the supply of American and Soviet arms.

Notwithstanding these colossal benefactions, however, neither Syria nor Israel have hesitated to ignore the advice of their respective giant patrons. In the period under review, Moscow, constantly urging upon Syria "Arab unity against Zionism and imperialism," remained "an unhappy and very cautious bystander," and the limits of the influence of Washington upon Israel are manifest. Indeed, "one could be forgiven a measure of sympathy for the superpowers" sucked into a barren competition which earns them no gratitude or "leverage" and "constitutes a nuisance to their relations with each other" Middle East International.

A.R.H. Kellas

A blue, mustard and red blouse teamed with a green skirt .. fresh strong colours play an important role in spring '92.

Controversy brews over blood testing for rare HIV strain

By Steven Spenser
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Only a few U.S. blood centres are testing for a rare but spreading strain of the AIDS virus despite fears that it could slip into the nation's blood supply.

More than 50,000 people in Europe, Africa, India, the former Soviet Union, and North and South America are infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) type 2, the second virus known to cause AIDS, according to the World Health Organisation. HIV-2 has been identified in at least 37 countries.

The mutation is widespread in Africa, where it primarily is spread heterosexually and has had an incubation period of up to 19 years. At least 43 cases of HIV-2 have been identified in the United States and Canada. Though rare, many experts say there is reason to believe HIV-2 will spread.

"HIV-2 could be a bigger heterosexual transmission threat" than HIV-1, the first

AIDS virus discovered, said Michael Wandell, an epidemiologist and director of Regulatory and Clinical Affairs for Genetic Systems. The Redmond-based company is the only federally licensed marker of HIV-2 tests.

While U.S. blood centres are required to test donated blood for HIV-1, testing for the rarer HIV-2 is not required. Experts disagree whether HIV-1 tests always will detect HIV-2.

The Federal Food and Drug Commission is evaluating a September recommendation by its Blood Products Advisory Committee that mandatory universal HIV-2 testing be adopted nationwide by June 1.

Many HIV-1 tests now used are cross-reactive with HIV-2, and the committee's recommendation is being considered "purely for precautionary reasons," FDA spokesman Brad Stone said. "There's no reason to believe ... that HIV-2 represents a significant risk to the blood supply."

The American Red Cross, the Federal Centres for Disease Control and the FDA in 1990 said HIV-2 was too rare to spend time and money on testing. The CDC estimated testing every blood donor for HIV-2 would cost \$60 million annually.

"In view of the extremely low prevalence of HIV-2 infections in the U.S. population, there appears to be no public health need at this time to screen donors of blood or source plasma for antibodies to HIV-2 with this test," the FDA told blood centres.

"The blood supply today in America is the safest in the world and the safest it's ever been," American Red Cross President Elizabeth Dole said. "We keep a constant eye on the possible threat of new diseases, like HIV-2."

The FDA licensed a genetic systems test for HIV-2 in 1990, and a genetic systems combination test for both strains in September.

Fewer than 20 of the nation's 2,400 blood banks and plasma centres — represent-

ing 5 per cent, by volume, of all the blood collected — test for HIV-2, according to Donna Delong, Genetic Systems' marketing and business development director.

"I think it is very possible that HIV-2 infected people are donating today in the U.S. and that blood has the potential to slip through and be transfused into an unsuspecting person," Wandell said.

The National Hemophilia Foundation says any additional cost from HIV-2 testing would be "minuscule" compared with the cost of caring for people who become infected with HIV. The foundation is calling for immediate and mandatory universal HIV-2 screening.

The United States is the principal supplier of Europe's blood products, and some U.S. labs voluntarily test for HIV-2 when exporting blood products to Europe.

A person with either strain of HIV may not show detectable signs of infection for up to six months. The CDC found that half of the reported HIV-2 cases in the

United States in 1989 tested negative for HIV-1.

A 1991 study by Richard T. Schumacher, of Boston Biomedical Inc., with Portugal's National Health Institute revealed FDA-licensed HIV-1 tests detected HIV-2 in only 8 per cent to 62 per cent of specimens.

"We're deeply concerned about the potential for HIV-2 (infection of the blood supply)," Dr. S. Gerald Sandler, medical director of the American Red Cross' National Reference Laboratories, said in Washington, D.C. the Red Cross collects 6 million units of blood annually and supplies half of the nation's blood supply.

"We have an opportunity to prevent a public health problem. It might be in the blood supply. Why wait?" asked National Hemophilia Foundation Executive Director Alan P. Brownstein.

"When HIV-1 came to the U.S., we didn't know what it was," Mr. Brownstein said. "Now we see HIV-2 coming our way. ... Haven't we learned?"

History of HIV-2's development

SEATTLE (AP) — Closer to 10 million people worldwide have including 500,000 children, and in 750,000 people have died from the virus, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

About 10 million people are infected with HIV-1, the virus discovered, including 900,000, and total cases will grow to 40 million by the United Nations agency.

Many health experts agree that HIV-2 could become a public health problem as well.

HIV-2 is transmitted in manner as HIV-1: Through homosexual or heterosexual intercourse, the shared hypodermic needles, from mothers to their children before or after birth, or through transfusions of contaminated blood.

Here is a history of HIV-2 development:

- 1900-1950: HIV-2 is believed to have become distinct virus.
- 1960s: The first European case of HIV-2; symptoms do not until the late 1970s.
- Mid 1970s: The first African case transmitted via blood transfusion (retrospectively).
- 1978: A Portuguese couple the first AIDS case known to be HIV-2 (Definitive diagnosis does not until 1987).
- 1985: HIV-2 is isolated from a West African with AIDS by Dr. Luc Montagnier, the co-discoverer of the AIDS virus.
- 1986: Discovery of HIV-2 by Dr. Montagnier is reported in the Journal Science.
- 1987: The first test for HIV-2 antibodies is developed. Epidemiological studies of HIV-2 begin.
- 1988: The first U.S. case of HIV-2 infection is reported. Two HIV-2 infected blood donors are reported in France.
- 1989: The CDC reports cases of HIV-2 transmission outside of Africa. Canada reports its first two HIV-2 cases. Routine blood screening for HIV-2 is adopted in several European blood centres.
- 1990: The first case of HIV-2 in a U.S. blood donor is reported. The FDA and Canada approve the marketing of a test to detect antibodies to HIV-2.
- 1991: The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates more than 50,000 people have HIV-2 worldwide. The FDA approves a combination test for both HIV strains. The FDA's blood products advisory committee recommends the adoption of mandatory, universal HIV-2 testing nationwide by June 1, 1992.
- 1992: Total North American cases of HIV-2 reported at 43.

Study: Many prostate biopsies may be averted with w test method

By Brenda C. Coleman
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Periodic blood tests may soon spare many men the cost, discomfort and worry of biopsies to detect prostate cancer, researchers say.

The still-experimental blood test compares levels of a substance called prostate-specific antigen, or PSA, which is often elevated in men with prostate disease, according to a study in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

By watching PSA levels over time, doctors can more accurately distinguish prostate

cancer from benign prostatic hyperplasia — a common form of prostate enlargement that is not dangerous — and reduce unnecessary biopsies to confirm whether the patient really does have cancer, said study co-author Dr. Jay D. Pearson, a gerontologist with the National Institute on Aging.

Doctors now look for early prostate disease in two ways: By a single PSA reading and by trying to feel through the rectum wall for lumps in the walnut-size prostate gland at the base of the urethra.

Dr. Joseph E. Oesterling, a urologist at the Mayo Clinic,

commended the research as "a very creative" slant on improving detection of prostate cancer, which is expected to be diagnosed in 132,000 Americans this year and kill 34,000.

Both he and Dr. Pearson said the method of using periodic PSA test needs to be studied further to confirm its usefulness, before it is put into regular use.

Dr. Pearson and a team led by Dr. H. Ballestrine Carter of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine studied PSA levels in 56 men who were already subjects in an aging study and had given blood samples, which were

frozen.

Eighteen men who had developed prostate cancer by 1990 showed significantly more rapid increases in PSA over periods ranging from seven to 25 years before diagnosis than men with benign prostate disease or no disease.

Biopsies cost \$350 to \$550, are uncomfortable and can cause bleeding, Dr. Oesterling said.

A PSA level, in contrast, can be obtained through a \$35 blood test, said both men.

Another study in the journal found no correlation be-

tween physical exams of the prostate gland and elevated blood levels of PSA. That study, led by Dr. E. David Crawford of the University of Colorado Health Sciences

Centre, lays to rest a controversial related journal that pushing on the prostate gland with an untreated early into the blood and elevated cancer had 10-year test reading, Dr. Oesterling rates similar to men prostate had been re-

moved. Dr. Oesterling dismissed that finding, saying the Swedish subjects were older than most U.S. patients and had less aggressive tumors.

First tests for an i-AIDS vaccine

World specialists in research on AIDS recently met in Paris. On that occasion, Professor Marc Girard announced that human tests with an anti-AIDS vaccine would begin in the first half of 1992.

By Jean Chabrier

PARIS — Two points have to be made to begin with:

First of all, vaccination means placing a decoy inside the body. It has all the characteristics of the micro-organism that one is seeking to fight, but all, or part of, its active elements have been removed. Like with a snake in which its venom-producing glands have been removed, it becomes harmless, while keeping the same appearance. The organism then produces antibodies which will recognise and destroy it, thanks to its "immunity memory," if ever it comes across it again.

Secondly, in the case of AIDS, we are dealing with a virus. One of the essential characteristics of a virus is that it can mutate. The best-known example of this is the flu virus which changes greatly from one year to the next. Moreover, the immunity reaction, caused by the vaccine, is limited in time and thus people have to be vaccinated again every year.

There are various difficult problems concerning the HIV virus, which is responsible for the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), leading to the collapse of all of the human organism's defence systems. The body thus becomes the prey of all infectious agents.

To begin with, of all known human viruses, HIV is the one with the greatest mutability, even greater than for flu, able to mutate spontaneously in a single individual over the months. As it changes constantly, it baffles the immunity memory mechanism which becomes less and less able to recognise it in its ever more perfect and deceitful appearance and "disguises."

Just over a hundred years ago, the great French criminologist, Bertillon, demonstrated that, however, perfect the disguise, certain characteristics of an individual could not be totally modified (facial angles, ears, fingerprints, etc.) and this is the direction that researchers have followed for HIV. Certain parts of the virus are fairly constant, particularly those enabling it to enter cells by binding with the receptor CD4. Unfortunately, the production of antibodies remains low and injections of large amounts of vaccine do not stimulate this production of antibodies sufficiently.

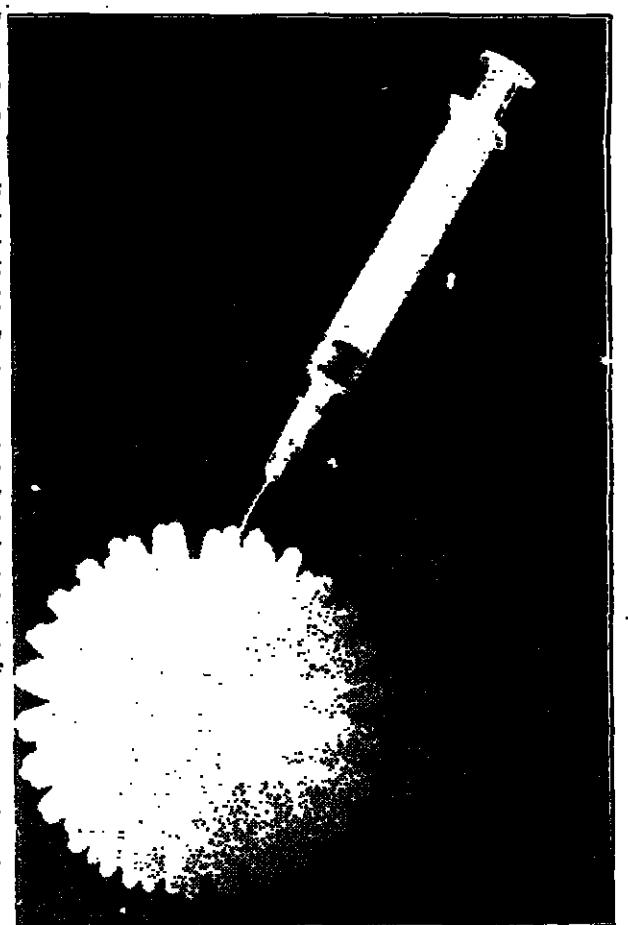
A potential vaccine

However, the most active antibodies close in on a part of the virus, the V3 loop. Unfortunately, this is the part that mutates the most easily.

Another difficulty lies in the protection of the vaginal and rectal mucous membranes. If the virus manages to cross the barriers of the mucous membrane, it quickly finds a reservoir in which it can proliferate. These are the macrophages. Once it has entered these cells, it becomes impossible to remove it with antibodies. The infection can then spread from cell to cell unavoidsably. So far, it had never been necessary to have a vaccine offering protection locally.

On an experimental level, there is no perfect animal model. Macaque monkeys develop a disease fairly close to AIDS through a virus related to HIV, but far from being the same. Chimpanzees can be infected by HIV, but do not go so far as to develop AIDS.

Yet, this is the direction in research which has given results. Experiments carried



Tests on anti-AIDS vaccine would begin this year

at the Pasteur Institute on viruses protected by a vaccine over the last years, showed that all e, due to a so-called phenomenon) had been unaffected by HIV in of a particular strain. is just a beginning, the success of such ve experiments on inevitably leads to humans. These are as Phase 7 tests, mainly at checking the vaccine's effectiveness, and the production and quality antibodies.

ssor J.P. Levy, from ional Agency of Re- AIDS, and Profes- Girard thus decided a period of experi- in humans, on non- volunteers, at the beginning of 1992. They insisted on the fact that it was simply a further step forward and that a very great number of difficulties still remained, the same difficulties, in fact, that were besetting the five or six research teams in the world, which had reached the same stage.

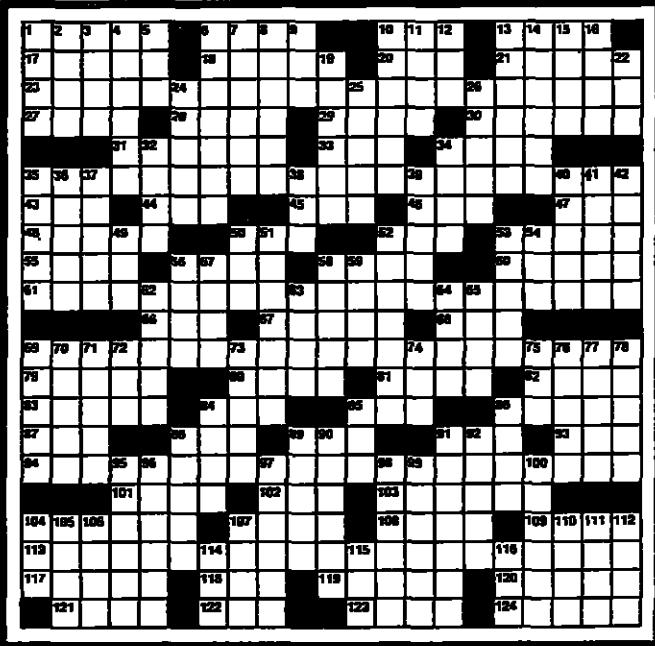
Research has thus now reached the point at which a pause has to be made, during which the potential vaccine can be tested. Only after Phase 7, will it be possible to consider a further step forward. Even if there is optimism and even if the challenge of producing an effective vaccine no longer appears impossible to achieve, it must be strongly emphasised that it will not happen overnight — L'Actualité En France.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

IN PLACE
By Robert Lieblich

ACROSS
1 Clashed
6 Mail, decorations
10 — Mahal
13 —
17 Pomegranate
18 Pleasure
20 Peck
21 Rousseau opus
22 SET
23 Sit up
24 Yours and mine
25 Decorate
26 Card combination
31 Bring
32 Corned beef
33 Salt
34 Husband to pillar
43 Buttons or Barber

45 Pipe joint
46 Art repository
47 Moe, or Mo, later
48 Post's fallen
50 So, that's it
51 Set
52 Jack in England
53 1000
54 Org. for dry lakes
55 They bind
56 Yale's New place
57 SET
58 Previous to
59 Forbid
60 Study tree
61 SET
62 "Al" — can do is
63 "Al" — (Owen)
64 For fear that



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Rash fifteen-day Republican filibuster is termed "Capital punishment" by Democratic opponents.
2. Decorator found certain old cartoons contained colorful criticism.
3. Bonyard humor may wear so well, it should indeed always be in style.
4. New soda jerk just could not learn how to make rich milk shakes.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. LOUA FUARI FURY BILM TMT RUWFL LU
HUBM YMWY ATTOO WOOTY YMTBLUUR
TRUISM. —By Lois H. Jones

2. LQHM AMR LEMHJYMCJM DMK WEES
YEXPAW DEQAW JEEPM KBM RPAK C
YES. —By Earl Ireland

3. RQV LRX EXKSUSVL KBYKKUL QKMX QUT
KBMSESPQLBSU SU TBED NDXYSCV
BUPEXNL BE EXKSUSLT. —By Armitage Shanks

4. ABCDAF GHECDF JELJM CERNCOAFP
GAJHCLB QCPFFNR, CBP TGR DACJMES
GJDACNFP QS TCRF, FGOPN QASPN.

—By Philip Brennan

Diagramless 19 x 19 by James Barrick

ACROSS
1 Room divider
5 Double-reef
6 Instrument
8 Hub
10 Midway
11 Guinness of
12 Blindom
13 Bering fear
14 Roman love
15 Kitchen item
16 Palms
18 Bull
20 Sharp

22 Made tractable
24 Woe as mail
25 Cognizant
26 Beginner in
27 Learning
28 Long place of
29 Chinese food
30 Social class
31 River into the
32 Caspian
33 Popular
34 Entertainment
35 Bellow
40 Steps

42 Nervous network
43 Something for a
44 Blacksmith
45 Art builder
46 Long place of
47 Chinese food
48 — avis
49 Procrastinator's
50 Post
51 Pelvic or
52 Turpin
53 Work by
54 Rousseau
55 Glove of a kind
56 Back talk
57 Perform
58 Mutual spring
59 Express a belief
60 Unyielding
61 Highlight
62 Chinese
63 Tape
64 Point that yields
65 Greenish blue

DOWN
1 Chinese food
2 Approximately
3 Crazy as a
4 Time of fasting
5 Mind of beam
6 Toward shelter
7 Express
8 Old French coin
9 Labeled
10 Laid over ice
11 Rules of conduct
12 Eastern servant

11 Animal fluid
12 England's lake
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14 —
15 —
16 —
17 —
18 —
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AIDS virus found mothers' milk

LONDON (R) — Mothers carrying the HIV virus, which causes AIDS, can infect their babies by breast feeding, researchers said.

Breast-fed babies were more than twice as likely to become infected with the children of HIV-infected

mothers, according to a study published in Britain's Lancet medical journal.

The research carried out in 1984 and 1991 covered 721 babies born to 701 mothers in 19 places in Italy, Germany, Britain, Belgium, Spain, Sweden and the Netherlands.

study said: "The best evidence suggests that mothers with established HIV can transmit HIV through breastmilk. The relative importance of this route remains to be seen."

were nearly four times more likely to contract the HIV virus than babies born after a pregnancy of normal length.

This was possibly because premature babies did not have such a strong immune system.

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Genscher — world's longest serving foreign minister

By Marcus Kabel
Reuter

BOON — Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who stunned Bonn by announcing on Monday that he would quit the government next month, is the world's longest-serving foreign minister.

Nearly two decades in charge of Bonn's diplomacy were crowned by German unity in 1990.

In recent months, he has led a vigorous campaign in support of Croatia's independence from Yugoslavia and, unsuccessfully, for the United Nations to send peace-keeping troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

But the wily East-West diplomat, still Germany's most popular politician, has come under growing pressure from critics who say he is out of touch with the new post-cold war world.

A key figure in bringing chancellor Helmut Kohl to power in 1982, Mr. Genscher is leaving the government with the ruling coalition's popularity slumping as it tackles the costs of unifying the old East and West Germany.

Congratulations poured in when Mr. Genscher celebrated his 65th birthday last month with

a huge reception in a hilltop villa in Bonn.

"An institution" Otto Lamb-dorff, chairman of Mr. Genscher's Free Democratic Party (FDP), proclaimed him.

But his critics say Mr. Genscher is out of touch with post-cold war diplomacy.

And younger politicians like Volker Ruehe, Mr. Kohl's ambitious right-hand man in the Christian Democratic Party (CDU) who became defence minister last month, have started to make a pitch for the foreign minister's job.

Oskar Lafontaine, the failed Social Democratic challenger to Mr. Kohl in 1990, sees Mr. Genscher as a master of detente-era manoeuvring who has lost his bearings now that the East-West divide has disappeared.

"The autopilot has to be programmed again. This is not easy for someone who has done his job well in a bipolar world for 18 years," he wrote in Stern magazine last month.

Even the conservative Bild Am Sonntag newspaper, a fan of Mr. Genscher during unification, has turned on him.

"Genscher twirled the globe for years, then it almost ran him

over and now it's running away from him. He refuses to see this and almost nobody tells him," it wrote on his birthday.

On recent visits to Georgia and Albania, the man who once brought piles of German aid money to countries emerging from communist dictatorship could offer little more than words of support.

Mr. Genscher became foreign minister in 1974 after five years as interior minister and acquired the stature of a statesman in the 1980s as he saw the potential of Soviet perestroika and led a successful drive against new NATO missiles in Europe.

As a young man, he fled communist East Germany in 1952. But he kept up his links with his hometown, Halle, and spoke with its characteristic nasal Saxon accent.

Mr. Genscher's star started to wane during last year's Gulf war. He and Mr. Kohl disappeared from public view as the fighting between a U.S.-led coalition and Iraqi forces occupying Kuwait, shattered German hopes that the end of the cold war meant permanent peace.

Later last year, he pleased many Germans — but alarmed foreigners — by tirelessly pushing his reluctant European Community partners into recognising Croatia and Slovenia.

This campaign aroused resentment against a new, more assertive German.

"In Brussels and around Europe, they won't forget very quickly how the Germans got what they wanted," the liberal weekly Die Zeit commented.

Mr. Genscher smoothes critical questions in a thick fog of diplomatic phrases that convey little information but seem to reassure Germans yearning for order in an unpredictable world.

Always ready to speak before a camera or microphone, he laughs heartily with cartoonist who lampoon his large floppy ears

A word of tribute to the late Henry Cattani

By Pascal Karmy

It was sad news for me, and I am sure for many others, to learn about the death of Henry Cattani in Paris a few days ago.

Henry Cattani was a well-known international jurist and a recognised authority on the Palestine question. Born in Jerusalem in one of the leading families, he studied in the College des Freres. He then studied law at Paris University from which he obtained his licence en droit (Bachelor of law) and then left for London University from which he graduated with an LL.M (Masters degree in law) and became barrister at the Middle Temple.

He returned to Palestine and became a lecturer at the Jerusalem Law School, a member of the Palestine Law Council and one of the leaders of the Palestine Bar. In 1946 he gave evidence before the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on the Palestine Question. In the following years he presented the Palestine Arab case at the special session of the General Assembly of the

United Nations on behalf of the Arab Higher Committee and represented the Arabs during the ordinary sessions of the General Assembly in 1947 and 1948. In 1948 he was appointed by the League of Arab States for discussions with Count Bernadotte, the United Nations Mediator on Palestine.

After the Palestine debacle in 1948 he lived in Beirut and became a member of the Bars of Lebanon and Syria. Then, in 1975, following the war in Lebanon, he left for Paris where he died. He left a wife, a son and a daughter.

He wrote several important books, some of which are the following: Palestine, The Arabs and Israel, Palestine and International Law, The Road To Peace, The Question of Jerusalem, The Palestine Question, The Evolution of Oil Concessions in the Middle East, and The Law of Oil Concessions.

His death is indeed a loss for his colleagues and a loss for all Palestinians.

Israel wants talks before polls

(Continued from page 1)

Arabs seeking an accord with the Arabs as elections approach in Israel.

But Palestinian spokeswoman Ashrawi, after Tuesday morning's session at the State Department, showed less optimism than after the first day of the talks, when she spoke of a "distinct possibility" for progress.

"There was disappointment today but it doesn't mean that it is entirely hopeless," she said.

Dr. Ashrawi said the Palestinians had "several objections" to the Israeli proposal for elections, chiefly that "the Israelis still have a hard time shedding the role of occupier."

She reiterated the Palestinian position that elections for a "Palestinian interim self-governing authority" should be held before municipal elections and that elections held under Israeli military rule would be a "travesty."

She said the Israeli proposal had not been rejected but was unacceptable and that Palestinians would present a detailed answer, containing their objections, on Wednesday.

Gulf states to attend multilateral talks

Gulf Arab states will attend the next round of multilateral talks with Israel on arms control, water and economic cooperation due to be held in May, a senior Bahraini official said Wednesday.

The official Gulf News Agency (GNA) said Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa received an invitation to attend the multilateral talks during a meeting with the Russian, British and Japanese ambassadors.

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Amman - Jordan**

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Fax No.: 962-6-674416/Amman H.O.
Telex No.: 21683 Potash JO.
Tel. No.: 666165/8- Amman
665116 or 63-377121-Site

**2. Mr. Norman Camier,
Jacobs International Inc.,
Merrion House,
Merrion Road,
Dublin 4, Ireland**

Fax No.: 353-1-2695497
Telex No.: 30295 JCBS-IE
Tel. No.: 353-1-2695666

The supply includes eight (8) Nos of 380V motor control centres of totally enclosed metal clad, industrial type. The closing date for submission of tenders will be 12:00 noon June 08, 1992. Suppliers who fail to have their bid security in place on or before the bid due date, will not be considered.

**A.Y. Ensour,
Managing Director,
The Arab Potash Co., Ltd.,**

Mojaddidi takes complete control

(Continued from page 1)

Fighting between rebel factions began Saturday after they flooded into the city unchallenged.

The Red Cross said at least 15 people had been killed and nearly 300 wounded by Tuesday morning, but the actual toll is thought to be much higher.

Mr. Masoud and Mr. Hekmatyar are from different ethnic groups and have different visions of the government that should succeed Mr. Najibullah.

Mr. Hekmatyar favours strict imposition of Islamic law, while Mr. Masoud holds with the moderate line taken by the governing coalition.

The gunfire and artillery exchanged during the battle for the interior ministry was heavy, but a militia commander, who identified himself only as Mohair, said one of his fighters was wounded.

He said there were no casualties among Mr. Hekmatyar's men. There was no word Wednesday from Mr. Hekmatyar, the only significant rebel leader to resist cooperation with the new, 20-member provisional council.

Judicial panel to probe killings

(Continued from page 1)

This is an unusual crime, alien to our Jordanian society whose members are known for compassion for one another," said Minister Mbeideen in a statement to Petra.

He voiced confidence that the assassin or assassins will be eventually discovered and the motives behind their action would be presented to the public.

"It was an unprecedented and despicable crime and a dastardly act," said Mr. Mbeideen.

Once the evidence has been collected the judicial authorities will spare no moment in imposing the strictest possible penalty on the culprit or culprits, he said.

Apart from this crime and the killing of a Jordanian moneychanger three years ago, which had also sent waves of a horror and anger throughout the Jordanian society, the Kingdom knows no organised crime, the minister said. Ordinary crimes which occur now and then also plague other societies around the world, he noted.

Furthermore, the minister said upon directives from Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the Ministry of Justice is working on an amendment to the existing penal code related to rape crimes. The amendment aims at introducing stricter punishments against rapists, including the death penalty.

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Short defeats Karpov, to play Timman in candidates final

LINARES, Spain (R) — British grandmaster Nigel Short beat Anatoly Karpov of Russia in the final game of their World Chess Championship semifinal Tuesday to take the 10-game series 6-4 and qualify for the candidates final.

Short, 26, completed his historic win over the former world champion after 41 moves and four-and-a-half hours of a Sicilian defence.

The Briton will face Jan Timman of the Netherlands in the final eliminator somewhere in Spain in January for the right to battle for the world title with

champion Garry Kasparov of Russia.

Timman Monday completed a 6-4 victory over another Russian, Artur Yusupov.

Short was euphoric after his victory.

"The last game was very sharp, very competitive," he told Reuters. "Karpov had to play a Sicilian defence because he had to try to win. This was a game somebody had to lose."

He said he had not panicked when Karpov went ahead early in the series.

"The third game was the hardest for me as I missed a winning position."

Short rated his win in the eighth game as his best performance of a sequence in which he confessed the standard of play had not been very high.

"But that is understandable. In a series like this, only 10 games with so much at stake, players are very tense and nervous and there are bound to be a lot of mistakes."

Asked what he thought his defeat of Karpov meant for inter-

national chess, Short replied: "This is not the end of Karpov but it is the end of something."

Short's victory means that for the first time since Karpov lost the World Championship to Kasparov in 1985, he will not be the next challenger for the title.

The Briton, who became an international master at the age of 14 and grandmaster at 18, said he had not yet had time to think about his clash with Timman in the final eliminator.

"I have only been thinking about Karpov," he said.

Grand Prix organisers unlikely to ban Krabbe

LONDON (R) — Organisers of the world's leading athletics meetings are unlikely to ban Germany's double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe if the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) decides she is not guilty of manipulating dope tests.

This week the assistant director of the Stockholm Grand Prix, Pers-Anders Persson, said the Stockholm organisers had decided not to invite Krabbe to their meeting on July 2.

Persson said several organisers would probably also ban Krabbe and added that the matter would be considered at a spring meeting of promoters in Stockholm this weekend.

"Our decision to not invite Krabbe is not a statement on whether we think she is guilty or not," he said.

"It has to do with the feelings of other athletes, who apparently don't want her around, who feel they are not competing on equal terms."

But a survey of other Grand Prix promoters did not show any support for Persson's stand which followed the decision by the German Athletics Federation (DLV) decision this month to lift its four-year ban on former east German Krabbe, the 100 and 200 metres world champion, for allegedly manipulating dope tests.

That decision, which also

cleared Krabbe's team mates Grit Breuer and Silke Moeller, will be considered by the IAAF council in Toronto next month who will then decide whether to refer the case to their own arbitration panel.

Most promoters agreed with Res Bruegger, organiser of the Zurich Grand Prix, the world's wealthiest meeting, who preferred to wait for the IAAF decision.

"It is too early to take a stand on this issue," Bruegger said. "We must wait and see what the IAAF does. Anyway I must emphasise it is the prerogative of the organiser to invite whom he wants. That is up to the organiser."

Manfred Gernar, director of the Cologne Grand Prix, said he did not endorse a boycott.

"What's decisive is whether Katrin Krabbe runs at the Olympics," Gernar said. "If the IAAF clears her, then she will run with us."

The director of the Seville meeting, Leonardo Chaves, said he did not wish to prejudge the issue.

"Until there is a decision that she is guilty, we will not take any strong action," Chaves said. "At the moment we are fully in favour of Krabbe taking part."

Nice meeting director Robert Bertojo said the question was largely irrelevant as the leading

Germans would be undertaking pre-Olympic training at the time of his meeting.

But he added: "There is a basic principle of justice that people are innocent until proved guilty. If you start pointing the finger at athletes on grounds of suspicion, you could point it at everyone... once the IAAF makes a decision, the situation may be different."

His position was echoed by Wilfried Meert, organiser of the Brussels Grand Prix, who said: "If the IAAF suspends Krabbe then it's simple, if the IAAF releases her we can still talk. There's no use in talking about it, if the IAAF upholds the suspension there's no discussion, she's gone for four years."

U.S. promoters said they had heard no talk of boycotts.

"She was deemed not guilty by the German Federation and as far as I am concerned, I would love to have her," San Jose meeting director Bert Bonanno said.

New York meeting director Allan Steinfield said he had considered inviting Krabbe before the doping incident.

"Not knowing whether she would make it back or not we went forward and spent the budget on other athletes," Steinfield said.

"But had the incident been decided very, very quickly we would have invited her, because we were thinking of inviting her

to begin with."

If the IAAF decides not to overturn the DLV decision, Krabbe will be on course to win the Barcelona Olympic sprint double and raise further her already huge commercial potential.

And as Berlin Grand Prix chief Rudi Thiel asked rhetorically: "Can you imagine Krabbe becoming Olympic champion in Barcelona and we not inviting her to Grand Prix meetings?"

Borg made to suffer again

MUNICH (R) — Bjorn Borg's tennis comeback suffered another blow Tuesday when he was swept out of the Munich Open first round by Croatian Goran Prpic.

The five times Wimbledon champion looked lost on the slow clay court as Prpic triumphed 6-1 6-0 in just 47 minutes.

Borg has now lost all four of his games on the circuit since he ended seven years of retirement last year, prompting advice from leading players to concentrate on the veteran tour.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Monaco squeezes into cup final

CANNES, France (R) — Monaco squeezed into the French Cup final in a penalty shoot-out after their semifinal with Cannes ended in a goalless draw after extra time. Monaco's veteran keeper Jean-Luc Ettori saved Cannes' second spot kick taken by Dutch stopper Addick Koot and his team went on to convert all their penalties to win 5-3. Monaco, who meet Werder Bremen of Germany in the European Cup Winners' Cup final in Lisbon next Wednesday, will face either champions Marseille or second division Bastia in the French final in Paris on May 10. If Marseille win next Tuesday's semifinal in Corsica, the two Mediterranean clubs will meet in the final for the third time in the past four seasons.

English clubs to vote on new system

LONDON (AP) — English Football League clubs will be asked to approve a radical new system to award up to five competition points for a win. The proposal would not affect the 22 Premier League clubs which will split from the league next month. League spokesman Ian Cotton said Wednesday the proposals would be put to the remaining clubs at the league's annual general meeting on June 5. Under the proposal, a win by three goals or more would be worth five points, by two goals four points, and one goal three points. A tie would be worth one point. It would be the second time the league changed its points system. From 1888 to 1981, wins were worth two points and ties one point. The current three points for a win, one for a tie was adopted in the 1981-82 season. The proposal, from a league sub-committee, would reward high scoring teams. The league hopes it would also attract fans and television rights, which it fears losing to the premier league.

Belgian club gets heavy fine

BERNE (R) — UEFA Tuesday ordered Belgium's Club Brugge to play their next home match in any of its club competitions at least 150 kms from their home stadium because of crowd violence at a European Cup Winners' Cup tie on April 1. The Disciplinary Committee of European soccer's governing body also fined Brugge 48,000 Swiss francs (\$31,360) for the trouble and poor organisation of the home leg of their semifinal against Germany's Werder Bremen. Brugge's Daniel Amokachi, sent off in the second leg in Bremen, was suspended for four matches. Werder won the tie to go through to the final against Monaco.

McCarthy given Formula One go-ahead

LONDON (R) — Perry McCarthy's on-off bid to break into Formula One was settled Tuesday when he said his application for a super-licence had been confirmed. The Briton can now make his Grand Prix debut for the revamped Andrea Moda team in Spain this weekend. "It is very satisfying to at last know I am going to fulfil my dream of driving in Formula One," he said. "I have worked hard for years to reach this level and it was very disappointing when it was taken away from me in Brazil." McCarthy expected to appear in the Brazilian Grand Prix earlier this month but his super-licence was withdrawn by the International Motor Sports Federation less than 24 hours before he was due to participate in pre-qualifying.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MAY 1, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A well expected May Day with the Moon rising. Jupiter gets the month of a good stars as Venus moves into fixed Taurus and the Moon resides there as well affecting definite schedules.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have some new ideas of a personal nature that are very good for you so long as they are not connected with some outside worldly interest.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have some private desire that you can gain by having a new and fresh approach at it but don't go off to some new venture coming from afar.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Go along with an essential public or outside mass of influence but avoid business person who is very greedy to get every cent that is available.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are now in a position to spark up your daily activities while at the same time don't be taken in by a clever outsider with an axe to grind.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A day to have some special pleasure or entertainment you enjoy but at the same time don't let some overseas tasks keep you from enjoying recreations.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Concentrating upon bringing a new harmony into your home is a

potential now while pleasures could prove both costly and unsatisfactory at this time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can dash around, make new allies and achieve construction outside interest but being tied to home and family would be non-productive to you now.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a fine time to get into whatever you think you can do to have a greater abundance and to share your worldly assets but not good for visiting various pals.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have excellent judgment now and envision everything with clarity so make decisions, except where money or property matters are concerned.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think over your most desirable longings of a private nature and how you can best attain them but don't make them public at this time.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A day to get in touch with the most influential friends who are available and let them know of your wishes but avoid one who limits and restricts you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get out in the world to see and to be with those who are to aid you in advancing your worldly interests and ignore a friend who ties up your hours.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 30, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This morning is an ideal time to work out long term financial plans and to close out this week constructively by taking stock all around you. Seek good friends for a sociable time.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) The morning brings a chance to wind up some arrangements with an associate while in the evening you have a chance to uncover some unusual circumstance regarding another person.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can add considerable charm to your surroundings in the early part of the day after which it is advisable to study ways to increase your image.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can make some interesting social plans in the morning while later it is necessary to get into the various tasks facing you requiring action.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Put some added charm and beauty into your residence then you can get off to some unusual recreation and have a wonderful, exciting time.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Communications of importance can be made to work sensibly this morning but in the evening do what your family expects of you and reap the rewards.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is the morning for you to

think-up ways to make your possessions more attractive or valuable while in the evening you can get your surroundings improved.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Look into the various personal activities that mean the most to you and then you can later get into more practical matters and get them organized.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Consider well your secret desires in the morning and make decisions regarding them and in the evening you can then go after them in a definite fashion.

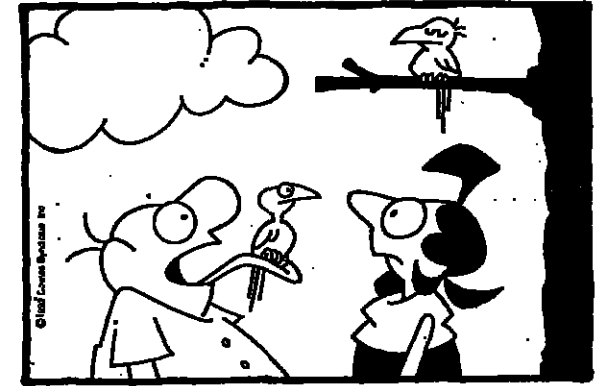
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Clarify whatever your own personal longings happen to be and in the evening you can make real progress in making them part of your life.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A person of prominence will be amenable to a request from you in the morning while later you can join devoted friends for a very meaningful evening.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can get that advanced information for which you have been searching afterwards make a point to do what is required of you in public matters.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are apt to be way off base in your intuitive perceptions in the morning but tonight you see conditions as they are and can use them to your gain.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME.

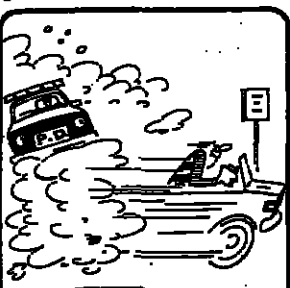
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YALLD

TUBIC

RUJINO

NELPOL



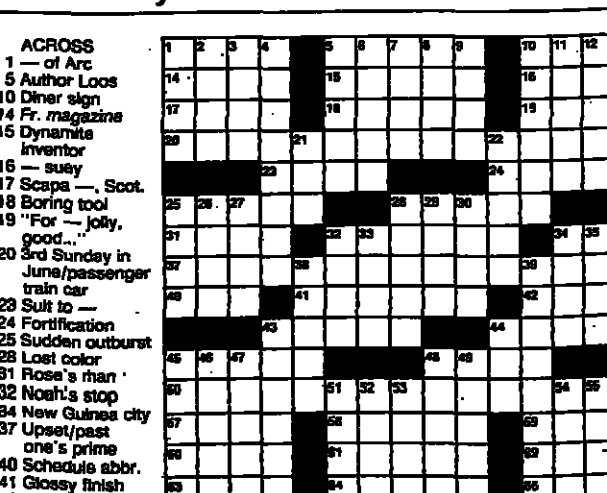
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: COMET ABBEY BRANDY PARADE

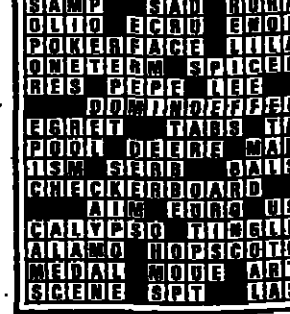
Answer: The skeleton didn't enjoy the party because he had his "NO BODY" TO DANCE WITH

THE Daily Crossword by George Uquhart



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



DOWN
1 Actor Goldblum
2 Stew pot
3 "Therics" —
4 Yule city
5 Wetmore Agassiz
6 Scandianav
7 Footnote abbr.
8 Anatomical
9 Associate
10 Reverberated
11 In front
12 Puccini opera
13 Baseball Hall-of-Famer Warren
14 WWII area
15 Gr. island
16 Indulge to suffer
17 "thirty-something" star
18 Milan coin
19 25 Gey
20 Cornelia dell'
21 Comedian Bert
22 30s.
23 Tom of
24 Type of
25 Cooley
26 38 Ms. Sommer
27 Egg-shaped
28 Actor Ford
29 43 Kogler
30 Joke
31 Pedro's friend
32 Burdened
33 Siesta
34 Waving device
35 "we all?"
36 Slender
37 Soliloquy start
38 Passport endorsement
39 ————
40 "The doctor"
41 Superior

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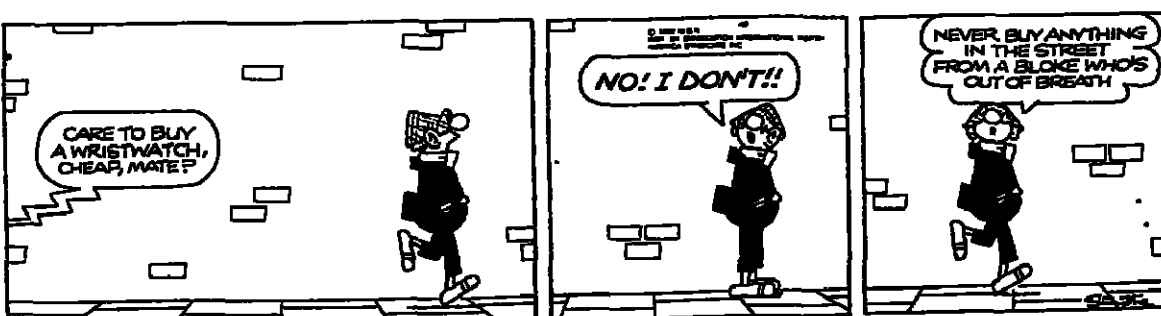
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Girls & Guys — Grindlays Bank Bldg. Shmeisani — tel: 664916
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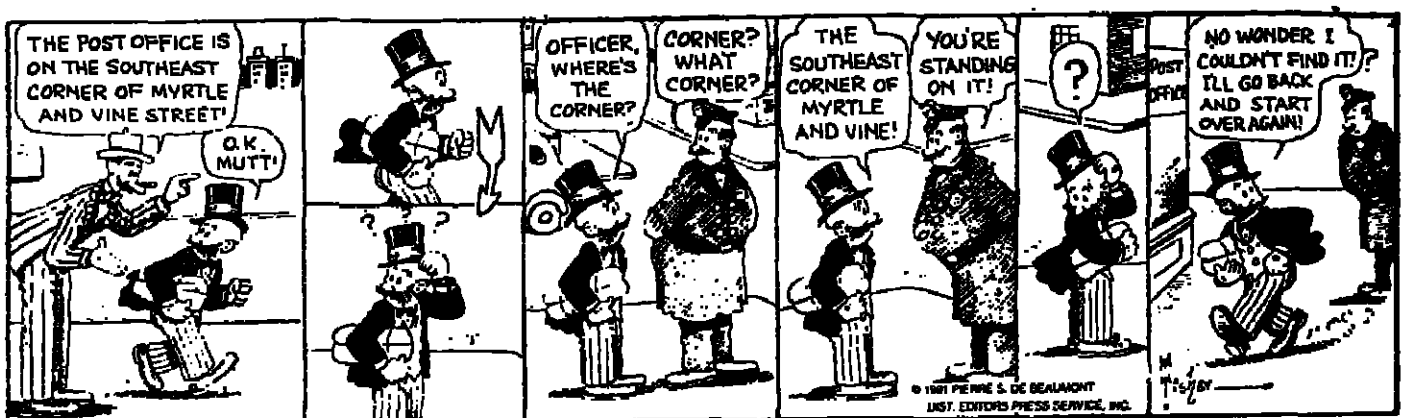
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK Date 28/4/92	TOKYO Date 29/4/92
Sterling Pound	1.7768	1.7768
Deutsche Mark	1.8537	1.8552
Swiss Franc	1.5160	1.5150
French Franc	5.5765	5.5755**
Japanese Yen	133.15	133.56
European Currency Unit	1.2420	1.2414**

* 1000 Per 1000
** European Opening 6:30 a.m. GMT

European Interest Rates Date: 29/4/92

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.93	4.00	4.12	4.02
Sterling Pound	10.56	10.37	10.31	10.12
Deutsche Mark	9.75	9.75	9.68	9.56
Swiss Franc	8.75	8.68	8.50	8.25
French Franc	9.93	9.93	9.93	9.93
Japanese Yen	4.68	4.65	4.56	4.56
European Currency Unit	10.03	10.12	10.19	10.12

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 29/4/92

Metal	USIM/Oz	JIN/Gm	Metal	USIM/Oz	JIN/Gm
Gold	335.35	6.65	Silver	3.95	.090

21 Karat

Currency Date: 29/4/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.5680	0.5690
Sterling Pound	1.2191	1.2252
Deutsche Mark	0.4154	0.4175
Swiss Franc	0.4526	0.4549
French Franc	0.1232	0.1238
Japanese Yen	0.5148	0.5174
Dutch Guilder	0.3692	0.3710
Swedish Krona	0.1157	0.1157
Italian Lira	0.0552	0.0555
Belgian Franc	0.02018	0.02028

Other Currencies Date: 29/4/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7950	1.8100
Lebanese Lira	0.0430	0.0480
Saudi Riyal	0.1832	0.1842
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.1832	0.1842
Qatari Riyal	0.1832	0.1842
Egyptian Pound	0.0080	0.0080
Omani Riyal	1.7600	1.7800
UAE Dirham	0.1866	0.1876
Greek Drachma	0.3547	0.3747
Cypriot Pound	1.4792	1.4992

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	21/4/92	Close	28/4/92	Close
All-Share	145.48		147.39	
Banking Sector	107.28		107.97	
Insurance Sector	147.00		148.34	
Industry Sector	199.79		203.45	
Services Sector	182.68		186.07	

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

Currency	Rate	Currency	Rate
One Sterling	1.7745/55	U.S. dollar	1.1938/43
One U.S. dollar	1.6335/45	Deutsche marks	1.8610/20
	1.5162/72	Swiss francs	33.96/00
	5.5730/80	French francs	1242/1243
	133.55/65	Japanese yen	5.9860/9930
	6.4575/4625	Swedish crowns	6.3915/65
	1.4284/4306	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold		U.S. dollars	

EC slams Greek economy, calls for more austerity

ATHENS (R) — The European Community (EC) has given a devastating view of Greece's economy, saying that despite two years of austerity "a very substantial, vigorous and effective adjustment package is needed immediately."

The EC Commission report slammed almost every aspect of the economy and raised doubts about tax reforms early this year, saying that they could lead to a very substantial loss in 1992 revenues.

The outlook for Greece is one of great difficulty. The failure to adjust, despite a number of tough measures, is leading to a continuous deterioration in the financial system," it said.

The report questioned the government's resolve to stand by austerity measures imposed so far — much less to pile on more.

"There is a risk that policy measures taken in 1991 and 1992 go in the wrong direction which would worsen the outlook for adjustment," it said.

The popularity of Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis, in office since April 1990, has been hurt by his economic measures. In a recent by-election for a seat in parliament, the opposition Socialists increased their vote by about 30 per cent.

Despite any trouble that new measures might cause the government, the report called for immediate action this year, followed by "further continuous and sustained adjustment measures" — which usually means less spending and more taxes.

This was the only way for Greece to meet commitments made at the December EC summit to join its 11 EC partners on the road to a single market and single European currency.

Greece is falling further behind other EC states, with the only double-digit inflation rate, the only currency outside the EC's exchange rate mechanism and doggedly high budget deficits.

The report implied that Greece was seen increasingly in a critical light at international talks and must act immediately if it wished to reverse that view.

Greece was badly crippled by a public sector debt of 135 to 140 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) — its total annual output of goods and services.

The report said Greece's inability to service public debt fully was due to the government's weak revenue raising.

It questioned forecasts by the government, which launched a three-year austerity plan shortly after its election, saying they were "clouded by uncertainty."

Greek inflation has stuck around 18 per cent since August, with prospects for only a modest fall by the end of 1992. This compares to 22.8 per cent annually at the end of December 1990.

Forecasts of an inflation rate of 12 per cent for 1992 were overly optimistic and the best Athens could hope for was 14 per cent by December, the report said.

Even the few areas of praise were heavily qualified. The report applauded a drop in the current account deficit to \$1.5 billion in 1991 from \$3.5 billion in 1990 but said this was due largely to a rise in EC transfers and "two cloudy items."

Yeltsin says West must not dictate conditions

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin has said he would not allow the West to dictate conditions to Russia despite the country's economic plight.

In comments apparently tailored to ease domestic fears over Russia's acceptance into the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Mr. Yeltsin said he did not share the body's views on all issues.

"We do not intend to work to the direct dictation of the IMF," he said at Moscow airport before leaving on a tour of Russia's remote north. "We will stick to our point of view."

Russia, desperately in need of funds to back economic reforms, was formally approved for membership of the IMF and World Bank on Monday, clearing the way for a \$24 billion international credit.

"We do not want to throw ourselves headlong into the abyss and grab all \$24 billion at once," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters, insisting his reforms were carefully planned but open to "tactical" adjustments.

A former top economic adviser to erstwhile Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev expressed doubts about the government's ability to handle the money effectively.

"The government has so far, for some reason, not made known its plans. Whether they exist or not, no one will say," Grigory Yavlinsky, who first raised the idea of joining the IMF last year, wrote in the newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda*.

"The IMF has experience of successfully supporting reform, but there are also examples of failure. Everything depends on us," he wrote.

The IMF was reviled in official communist media for decades as an oppressive tool of world capitalism imposing its terms ruthlessly on helpless countries. Suspicions remain in the general population despite the political changes.

Hardline groups, including nationalists and communists, portray integration into the Western financial system as a "sell-out" that will throw an impoverished population to the mercy of financiers in New York, London and Frankfurt.

It seemed likely Mr. Yeltsin's remarks were intended more to preempt these attacks than to send warnings to the West. But the president can have no illusions about the delicacy of relations with his new allies.

"His government," which only this month beat off a headline attempt to curb reform, could face these tense negotiations when hardship, especially unemployment, begins to bite in the country's industrial heartland. Pressure could grow sharply to support ailing plants and cushion the blow of market economies.

Mr. Yeltsin, who insists there is no turning back from market reforms, said he hoped to find a common language with Western leaders at a summit with U.S. President George Bush in June and Group of Seven talks with the world's top industrial nations in the German city of Munich in July.

The IMF and World Bank are tying credits to tough structural adjustments intended to cut government spending, especially on

Indonesia to open Islamic bank tomorrow

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia, which has the world's biggest Muslim population, will open its first Islamic bank on May 1, a move diplomats say is timed to coincide with parliamentary election campaigns.

President Suharto is among the principal backers of Bank Muamalat Indonesia, which will follow Islamic law forbidding the taking of interest. Borrowers will instead be asked to provide a share of their profits to the bank.

"Of course the bank must show a profit. Therefore the bank must evaluate borrowers very carefully before giving credit," Maman Natapemardi, the bank's credit director, told reporters.

The bank's stated aim is to increase the participation of Muslims, who form more than 90 per cent of Indonesia's 180 million people, in the country's booming economy.

At present, the economy is dominated by the mainly Catholic, ethnic Chinese community, which makes up just three per cent of the population.

"The bank will participate in raising the economic standard of the poorer people," said Hasan Basri, chairman of the Council of Ulama, Islam's highest body in Indonesia.

The bank would convey the government's concern over the widening gap between rich and poor, diplomats said. It would be an outlet for the growing resentment of indigenous Indonesians against the Chinese, they said.

"These feelings will become more pronounced during the parliamentary election campaign," one diplomat said.

The election is on June 9. The presidential election is due to be held in March, when President Suharto is widely expected to seek another term.

Mr. Basri said the bank would open with capital of 100 billion rupiah (\$250 million) which would eventually be raised to 500 billion rupiah (\$125 billion).

He said Mr. Suharto had suggested raising the capital by selling shares in the bank to Indonesians heading to Mecca for the Islamic pilgrimage of Hajj.

Rachmat Saleh, president of the Bank's board of commissioners, said the bank hoped to open branches after two years.

IMF presses for funding to help Russia

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Tuesday urged rich governments to give it the cash it urgently needs to bankroll the switch from communism to capitalism in former Soviet republics.

Russia and most of the other former Soviet republics were given the membership green light by the IMF Monday, setting the stage for a \$24 billion aid package to help Moscow ease its painful transition from communism to capitalism.

The IMF's policy-making Interim Committee, according to a communiqué issued Tuesday, called on countries that have yet to kick in their money under a two-year-old funding agreement to do so urgently.

Mr. Camdessus has said that while the IMF has sufficient funds to carry on for the time being, including providing lending to its newest members, it could find itself strapped by the year's end, which could undermine its assistance programmes.

"In the next six months we'll have major demands (for IMF loans) that must be met. If the quota increase does not occur... we'll have a problem," he said.

At the same time, he told a briefing for reporters that the IMF had no intention of dictating economic terms to the Russian government without its approval.

"It means that President Yeltsin has perfectly understood what are the methods of the IMF," he said.

Some lawmakers though are concerned that Russia could turn out to be a economic black hole for the international community, draining funds and undermining global growth because of a reluctance to bite the reform bullet.

It hopes that sympathy for the fledgling democracy there will win votes in Congress for funding for the IMF.

The Bush administration, which has been pushing the appropriation, recently switched tactics, tying it to approval of an international rescue package for Russia.

Lawmakers, caught up in a divisive presidential election year, have delayed the appropriation on the grounds that it smacked of foreign aid at a time when the U.S. was looking for ways to cut back on domestic programmes to trim its big deficit.

The Bush administration, which has been pushing the appropriation, recently switched tactics, tying it to approval of an international rescue package for Russia.

Turkey offers \$75m credit to Kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel agreed Tuesday to provide the Muslim republic of Kyrgyzstan with export credits worth \$75 million.

Turkish officials said Mr. Demirel, visiting Kyrgyzstan on the second leg of a tour of six former Soviet republics, had offered the Eximbank credit to President Askar Akayev, along with soft loans to fund sales of Turkish wheat and sugar.

The aid for Kyrgyzstan followed the signing of credit deals worth at least \$500 million with neighbouring Uzbekistan.

Turkish officials earlier said Mr. Demirel was discussing the creation of a development bank to channel investment to the southern members of the new Commonwealth of Independent States he is visiting.

The proposed bank would be run from Ankara on the model of the Asian Development Bank, said a Turkish foreign ministry official.

"The Soviet empire has collapsed, leaving the independent republics under the rubble," Mr. Demirel told reporters. "We are trying to create a new world for these people and we feel other countries of the world should help them too."

Mr. Demirel already has a formal mandate from Uzbek President Islam Karimov to discuss the establishment of a Central Asian and Caucasian development bank.

He will be seeking similar mandates in other capitals on his tour, which will also take him to Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan.

The credit deal with Uzbekistan is the biggest. Turkey has so far struck in its efforts to help Muslim republics make the transition to democracy and a free market economy.

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PERSPECTIVES

Biweekly economic newsletter
This week's issue:
■ The economics of Democracy
■ Why is Canada interested in Jordan?
■ US banks are coming
■ End of the blockade?
■ Kuwait's fiscal blues
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Heavy fire rocks Bosnian town

BELGRADE (AP) — Heavy mortar fire rocked a strategic town in Bosnia-Herzegovina until dawn Wednesday in a new round of violence that threatens peace efforts by the United Nations and European Community (EC).

Critics have called for sanctions against Serbia for its part in the escalating bloodshed, but there was little indication the 51-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe would take a united stand on expelling Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

Greece, a traditional Serbian ally, recognised the new, small Yugoslavia proclaimed by Serbia and Montenegro Monday. A senior official from Romania, which has helped keep landlocked Serbia supplied with oil, visited Belgrade Tuesday.

Russia also is thought unlikely to sanction Serbia.

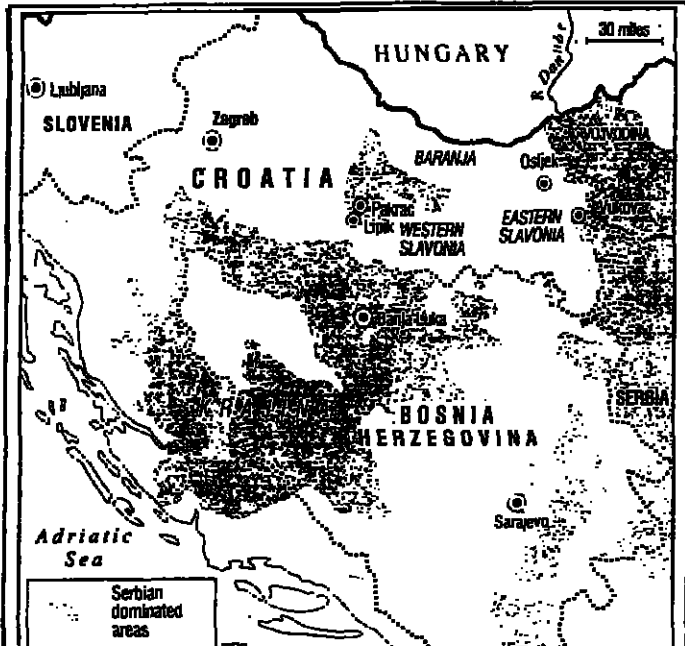
EC efforts to halt the fighting were to resume in Lisbon, Portugal, with talks between leaders of Bosnia's Slavic Muslims, Croats and Serbs.

Even if they reach agreement on dividing Bosnia, however, each side would have to fight to carve ethnically pure enclaves from the state's ethnic patchwork.

The United Nations announced Tuesday it was cutting back on refugee workers in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo and scrapping a planned logistics headquarters for peacekeepers in the northern Bosnian town of Banja Luka.

Some 300 people have died and more than 2,000 have been wounded in Bosnia-Herzegovina since violence erupted after Muslims and Croats voted for independence on Feb. 29. The fighting intensified after the state won broad international recognition on April 7.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said Tuesday some 400,000 people have fled their



homes in Bosnia, swelling the flood of more than 1 million fugitives in what was Yugoslavia.

Serbs, who comprise a third of Bosnia's 4.4 million people, fiercely opposed independence. With backing from the Serb-led federal army and paramilitaries from Serbia, they have seized large chunks of territory in hopes of forming their own republic.

The fighting threatens to undermine efforts by the United Nations to organise 14,000 peacekeepers in neighbouring Croatia.

Croatian Defence officials said four people were wounded in the Croatian town of Slavonki Brod Tuesday when Serbian forces pounded neighbouring Bosanski Brod in northern Bosnia.

The Belgrade daily Borba named eight of 12 Serbs it said were killed in the village of Novi Grad in northern Bosnia. Borba said some 4,000 Serbs in the village were encircled by Croat

forces.

Sarajevo, headquarters for the peacekeepers, was shelled repeatedly Tuesday night, with the Muslim-held radio and television building hit.

The army commander for Bosnia, Gen. Milutin Kukanjac, reiterated Wednesday that federal forces will defy an order from the Bosnian presidency to withdraw from the state.

He claimed that 25,000 to 30,000 members of the Croatian Armed Forces had invaded Bosnia and were to blame for much of recent clashes.

Mostar in south west Bosnia came under heavy mortar fire shortly before midnight Tuesday, Associated Press reporter Slobodan Lekic said from the city.

Artillery rained down until 5 a.m. (0300 GMT) on the historic Ottoman town — 40 per cent Muslim, 40 per cent Croat and 20 per cent Serb — from federal army positions high above on

Fortica Hill.

Croat forces fired mortars at army and Serb positions, with the federal forces responding with even heavier fire.

The town centre shook every few seconds with a fresh blast early Wednesday, Mr. Lekic said. Minarets of the city's ancient mosque and church spires were silhouetted black against the orange flare of explosions.

Some 60 per cent of Mostar's 100,000 inhabitants have fled the town. At least 18 have died and 161 been wounded there since early April.

Mostar is the site of a key federal air force base and industry, and has served as headquarters for several thousand federal troops since the army attacked nearby Dubrovnik last fall.

The fate of the 100,000 federal soldiers in Bosnia is crucial. The army contends that more than 80 per cent are local ethnic Serbs, suggesting it may leave all its weapons to Bosnia's Serbs if it withdraws from the newly recognised state.

Meanwhile President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina flew out of the former Yugoslav republic to attend peace talks in Lisbon Wednesday, European Community officials said.

They said Mr. Izetbegovic, a Muslim, left the capital Sarajevo on a plane provided by the EC and would meet leaders of the Croat and Serb communities in Lisbon to discuss the fighting in Bosnia.

The EC officials said his departure was held up Tuesday because the plane had not been given landing permission at Sarajevo Airport, which is guarded by the Serb-dominated Yugoslav army.

Mr. Izetbegovic had been expected for the EC-sponsored talks Monday and then Tuesday night.

The committee said decisions affecting the constitution should be ratified by a majority of about two thirds of the interim parliament.

Mr. De Klerk has proposed a two-chamber interim parliament with the upper house offering special protection for minorities. He has also offered to share his executive powers with an elected council representing three to five of the biggest parties.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress has insisted the constitution be drawn up by a special assembly elected by a simple national poll of all adults.

S. African forum calls for all-race parliament

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Negotiators mapping South Africa's transition from white rule to democracy have called for an all-race interim parliament to govern the country and draw up a new constitution.

The proposal by a committee including the main parties at the talks, called the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), could bridge differences over the form of the constitution-making body.

But officials said in a statement Tuesday evening said the blueprint was a working document drawn up by members of a technical

group and had not yet been submitted to the 19 parties in CODESA. "There is no question of agreement on the proposal at this stage," the statement said.

The draft was the second indication this week that the five-month-old talks could advance after weeks of apparent impasse on the issues of interim government and a new constitution.

A separate CODESA working group submitted proposals to another committee Tuesday for an all-race interim executive council that could supervise President F.W. de Klerk's white cabinet during a first phase of

transition to democracy.

Delegates said the plan was a significant move towards a compromise on power sharing during the initial phase of interim government.

The latest proposal for an elected interim parliament to implement a transitional constitution would, if accepted, lay the foundations for a second phase of interim government.

The committee proposed a single-chamber parliament elected by proportional representation with half the seats allocated in a national poll and half divided according to regional voting.

The committee said decisions affecting the constitution should be ratified by a majority of about two thirds of the interim parliament.

Mr. De Klerk has proposed a two-chamber interim parliament with the upper house offering special protection for minorities. He has also offered to share his executive powers with an elected council representing three to five of the biggest parties.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress has insisted the constitution be drawn up by a special assembly elected by a simple national poll of all adults.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

At least 74 killed in Sri Lankan violence

COLOMBO (R) — At least 74 Sri Lankans, many of them children, were killed in a massacre of Muslim villages by Tamil rebels and in reprisal attacks carried out by the survivors, an army officer said Wednesday. Tamil rebels attacked the eastern village of Alichipathana Tuesday night killing 54 Muslims, including 31 children. In revenge, Muslims from the same village raided two adjoining Tamil villages, killing 20 people and wounding 20.

Man shot dead as Irish talks begin

BELFAST (R) — A man was shot dead in Belfast Wednesday just minutes after Protestant and Roman Catholic politicians started talks to try to negotiate a path to peace. The man, believed to be a Catholic, was gunned down at a North Belfast community advice centre, police said. It was the second shooting in 24 hours in Belfast. On the eve of the peace talks, a woman was shot dead in a chemist shop by Protestant extremists, heightening fears Northern Ireland could be hit by another bloody sectarian "tit-for-tat" shooting war. Opening the talks, Britain's new Northern Ireland Secretary (Minister) Sir Patrick Mayhew said: "May we be equal to the hour." Northern Ireland's four main constitutional parties are bidding to end 18 years of direct rule from London and return the province to some form of power-sharing self-government. Almost 3,000 people have died and 30,000 people have been maimed since 1969 and the war-weary people of Northern Ireland hope the talks can bring the political stability needed to marginalise extremists on both sides of the sectarian divide.

78 more held in U.S. abortion protests

BUFFALO, New York (R) — Police arrested 78 more people Tuesday as anti-abortion demonstrators mounted protests here for a ninth day, a police spokesman said. More than 300 anti-abortionists were already being held after refusing to post bail. One protester was tossed to the ground and kicked by opponents at the Operation Rescue anti-abortion group protested outside abortion clinics in this city. Those detained included five supporters of abortion rights, including two involved in the scuffle outside a clinic, the spokesman said. The rest were anti-abortionists.

Support for Japanese cabinet rises

TOKYO (R) — Public support for Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet has risen for the first time in months, according to a poll by the Asahi Shimbun newspaper published Wednesday. The survey of 2,312 voters nationwide showed support climbed to 33 per cent from 27 per cent a month ago. While 47 per cent said they strongly opposed Mr. Miyazawa himself, this was down from 56 per cent last month. Mr. Miyazawa commanded 54 per cent support at the start of his administration in early November.

Peking: Mongolia belongs to China

ULAN BATOR (R) — China has said in a secret circular that the independent country of Mongolia and a Mongol-inhabited part of Russia should be considered Chinese territory. The circular, obtained by Reuters, orders a campaign against those it alleges are working for the secession of Chinese-controlled Inner Mongolia. It targets the United States, some Japanese academics, unspecified Western countries and Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. There was no immediate comment from Peking. Issued by the Inner Mongolian branch of China's secret police — the State Security Bureau — and dated March 24, the circular argues that the concept of Mongol nationalism is flawed because Mongol territories are in fact Chinese.

U.S. Air Force says new fighter crashed

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California (AP) — The only flyable prototype of a next generation fighter plane, on which the air force wants to spend more than \$95 billion, has crashed and burned, the air force said.

The YF-22 advanced tactical fighter slammed onto the base's main runway Saturday with its wheels retraced during a practice approach, after the plane underwent "severe pitch oscillations," or up-and-down vibration, the air force said in a statement.

The Lockheed Corp. plane was being tested for stress and vibration, said Lockheed spokesman Jeff Rhodes.

The radar-eluding plane, designed to be the hottest dogfighter going into the 21st century, slid several thousand feet and burned for 90 minutes.

A Lockheed company pilot escaped with only minor injuries. The exact cause of the crash was under investigation. No major

technical problems with the F-22 had been made public before the crash.

Engines had been removed from the only other prototype so it could be used as an engineering model.

Testing was 90 per cent complete at the time of the crash and was to have been completed next month. There will be no additional flight testing of the F-22 until 1995, the air force said. The planes were scheduled to become operational in 2002.

The air force wants to buy 648 F-22s at a cost of \$147 million each, or a total of \$95 billion, to replace the F-15 Eagle. Senate Appropriations Committee members have voiced concern over the price and the aircraft's weight.

Meanwhile, a Military transport plane on a training mission crashed into a lake Tuesday night, killing all nine people aboard, the air force said.

Bush, Clinton score decisive victories in Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Democratic front-runner Bill Clinton scored a decisive win in Pennsylvania Tuesday and appeared assured of winning his party's presidential nomination.

But former California governor Jerry Brown vowed to fight on until the July convention to choose the party's candidate for the November election.

On the Republican side, Pennsylvania's primary meant that President George Bush sewed up his party's nomination. He said he was eager to "get the gloves off" and begin the autumn general election campaign.

Mr. Clinton told supporters at a rally in Boston late Tuesday: "I expect to have to go all the way to the end, on June 2, before we can cross the threshold there for the nomination. But I believe we will."

The last Democratic primary will take place on June 2 in California, where Mr. Brown is now favoured to win.

"We're going to keep fighting," Mr. Brown said in Indianapolis. "You never know what's going to happen."

Mr. Bush, addressing a Republican fundraising dinner, said after learning he had clinched the nomination: "It is wonderful to be officially over the top."

The president rolled over right-wing challenger Pat Buchanan by a 3-1 vote in Pennsylvania, according to network projections, giving him 1,129 delegates to this August's Republican national convention.

That is well over the 1,105 bare majority the president needed to assure his renomination at the Houston convention.

But the big surprise of the evening was a victory by political novice Lynn Yeakel in Pennsylvania's Democratic Senate primary.

Mr. Yeakel rode a wave of anger at women's exclusion from political power to a stunning win and will face incumbent Republican Arlen Specter in what is expected to be a bruising autumn campaign.

Mr. Clinton, seeking to take advantage of the momentum from his Pennsylvania victory, was headed for Washington



Juan Ponce Enrile

Enrile bows out of presidential race

APARRI, Philippines (AP) — Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who helped make Corason Aquino president and then tried to oust her, has shunned presidential ambitions and is running for the legislature from a poor rural district.

"I am not interested in a national position any more," Mr. Enrile said in a recent interview in this town of 50,000 people, about \$590 kilometres north of Manila. "As far as I am concerned, I am on my way out of politics."

Few Filipinos have played as influential or controversial a role in recent history as Mr. Enrile. As defence minister under President Ferdinand Marcos, he administered martial law from 1972 until 1981. Mr. Marcos considered Mr. Enrile a possible successor.

But Mr. Enrile turned against Mr. Marcos and led a military mutiny which triggered the February 1986 uprising leading to Mrs. Aquino's installation as president.

His strident criticism of her in the turbulent, early days of her administration nearly brought Mrs. Aquino down. Mr. Enrile was fired as defence chief in November 1986 after a failed coup by his followers.

Six months later, Mr. Enrile was elected to the Senate, where he remained one of Mrs. Aquino's chief critics. He faces rebellion charges in a December 1989 coup attempt.

Meanwhile, a survey released Wednesday showed that a close ally of the late President Marcos is gaining among Manila voters in next month's contest to succeed President Aquino.

Mrs. Aquino has claimed that a victory by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco in the May 11 election would threaten democracy that was restored in the 1986 uprising against Mr. Marcos.

Mr. Cojuangco, Mrs. Aquino's first cousin, was one of Mr. Marcos' chief lieutenants during his 20 years in office. On Wednesday, Mr. Enrile said Mr. Cojuangco played a leading role in Mr. Marcos' 1972 declaration of martial law.

A house-to-house survey of 300 registered voters in the Metropolitan Manila area by ABS-CBN Broadcasting showed Miriam Defensor Santiago leading in the seven-member race with 33 per cent.

Mr. Cojuangco followed in second place with 22.7 per cent, a gain of nearly 15 percentage points from the previous month, ABS-CBN said.

Mrs. Aquino's personal choice, former Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos, was third with 20.3 per cent, nearly a 5-point increase, followed by Mrs. Marcos with 6.3 per cent, a gain of 1.7 percentage points.

Germany struggles to pick a diplomat

BERLIN (AP) — Billed as the next big power in the world arena, Germany can't even choose its chief diplomat without an embarrassing political fiasco.

Construction Minister Irmgard Schwaetzer, tapped Monday to become the country's first female foreign minister, was unceremoniously dumped after sundown Tuesday.

Instead, Justice Minister Klaus Kinkel was chosen to replace Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who was widely credited with helping bring about the end of cold war but increasingly accused of botching its aftermath.

The debate over how to fill one of the world's truly powerful posts came against the backdrop of strikes by 150,000 public workers demanding higher wages to cope with an economy weakened by the costs of German unification.

The choice of Mr. Kinkel to become the nation's emissary to the rest of the world came after a series of meetings involving the big players in Mr. Kohl's fractious three-party governing coalition.

The Free Democratic Party, which holds the Foreign Ministry by long-standing coalition agreement, chose Mr. Kinkel over Mrs. Schwaetzer by a 63-25 vote late Tuesday.

Mrs. Schwaetzer appeared to have tears in her eyes upon hearing of the decision and wiped her eyes with a finger.

Her nomination had been announced the previous day by party head Otto Lambdordt just hours after Mr. Genscher abruptly said he would end his 18-year run. She would have been Germany's first senior woman cabinet minister.

Many of those against Mrs. Schwaetzer's nomination blamed the way it was handled, blasting Mr. Lambdordt for not putting it before the full party leadership.

Tuesday's decision was seen as more of a vote for the popular Kinkel than as a vote against Mrs. Schwaetzer.

Mr. Kinkel has pushed for the return of former east German leader Erich Honecker from Moscow to face manslaughter charges for the deaths of those who had tried to flee west.

He has also sought conciliatory moves toward the Red Army Faction terrorist group, which recently announced it was ending its terror campaign.

After the storm over the Foreign Ministry post, another woman, Free Democrat Sabine Leutheusser-Scharnberger, was nominated by the Free Democrats to replace Mr. Kinkel as justice minister.

Mr. Kinkel, 55, is a former head of Germany's intelligence service. The full coalition must approve his nomination.

Asked if she was angry about her near miss with the Foreign Ministry, a good-natured Mrs. Schwaetzer told reporters: "Democracy is never infuriating."

Mrs. Schwaetzer may have been a casualty of power plays as members of Mr. Kohl's rambunctious coalition jockey for position behind their weakened chancellor. Sources said some of the infighting was over who would get Mr. Genscher's other role, the coveted position of deputy chancellor.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel, who emerged as a candidate for deputy chancellor, publicly slammed Mr. Kohl and Mr. Genscher and said there was a need to redefine German foreign policy. Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats fall ideologically between the centrist Free Democrats and the arch-conservative Christian Social Union, the three parties which comprise the governing coalition.

Malaysia welcomes regional U.S. military presence

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia gave support Wednesday to a continuing U.S. military presence in the Asia-Pacific, in what defence analysts said was a significant declaration.

"The U.S. must remain committed to the region," Defence Minister Najib Razak told a regional defence conference. "As such we welcome the U.S. presence."

Predominantly Muslim Malaysia has in the past adopted a cautious stance in its military ties with Washington. It has accused the United States of trying to be the world's sole policeman after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"It is a significant statement," said a defence analyst who declined to be named. "There has been a reassessment."

Mr. Najib's statement was issued while U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney was on a

visit to the region, analysts said. Mr. Cheney was in Indonesia after a one-day visit to Singapore.

"The statement is very welcome," said U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia Paul Cleveland. "We appreciate it."

Mr. Najib warned of the danger of a military vacuum emerging in the region with the closure of U.S. military bases in the Philippines and the collapse of the Soviet Union. The conference was attended by diplomats, senior military officers and former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

There is fear that as a result of the disengagement of these two superpowers from the region, other ambitious powers may fill the vacuum," Mr. Najib said.

"It is in our interests to see that there will not be a vacuum in the region, as it may result in new areas of conflict with a new power configuration emerging."

Burma army pounds Karen bases after truce pledge

BANGKOK (R) — Burma's army fired mortar barrages at Karen guerrilla bases on the Thai frontier after a Rangoon announcement it was suspending its offensive, a Karen spokesman said Wednesday.

About 20 mortar bombs were fired at the base of Kaw Moo Ra overnight and 40 to 50 were aimed at defence lines round the Karen headquarters of Manerplaw, said Em Marta, spokesman for the guerrillas in Bangkok.

On Tuesday evening, official Rangoon Radio said: "The Karen state offensive has been suspended for the sake of national

unity and goodwill."

Mr. Marta commented: "I don't think they are very sincere in announcing the cessation of the offensive, but at the same time to be fair to them the orders may not have reached everybody yet."

He said the attacks had caused no casualties and had not been resumed Wednesday morning. Independent confirmation of the attacks was not immediately available.

Since January, the army has thrown more than 10,000 men into the battle at Manerplaw and thousands more into the fight for Kaw Moo Ra.

COLUMN

Daughter says Nancy Reagan beat her, popped pills

NEW YORK (AP) — Nancy Reagan was a tranquilizer-popping child beater during Ronald Reagan's years as governor of California, says their estranged daughter, Patti Davis, who received daily beatings as she got older, and when she tried to tell her father, he wouldn't believe her. "He said I was lying and he said I was crazy and he, I remember feeling like there were miles between us," the 39-year-old Davis said in an interview to be broadcast Thursday night on ABC's "Primetime Live."

"I think it was the first time I really realised I was never going to know what it would feel like to have a father. Ms. Davis said her mother existed in a tranquilizer fog and took up to five or six a day. "Yes, there was abuse in this family," she said. "There was emotional abuse. There was substance abuse. That's what went down." In a statement, the couple told the New York Daily News: "We have always loved all of our children, including our daughter, Patti. We hope the day will come when she rejoins our family." Ms. Davis, who has not spoken with her parents in several years, said the beatings began when she was a little girl and continued through college. "There was hitting," she said. "There was emotional tyranny in a way. I think the most prominent memory I have of my childhood is that I didn't measure up. I could never get it right." Ms. Davis appeared on the ABC programme to talk about her autobiography, *The Way I See It*, scheduled for release Thursday. It is her fourth book. Last year she published a novel featuring a domineering mother and a detached father.

Ms. Davis said her mother existed in a tranquilizer fog and took up to five or six a day. "Yes, there was abuse in this family," she said. "There was emotional abuse. There was substance abuse. That's what went down." In a statement, the couple told the New York Daily News: "We have always loved all of our children, including our daughter, Patti. We hope the day will come when she rejoins our family." Ms. Davis, who has not spoken with her parents in several years, said the beatings began when she was a little girl and continued through college. "There was hitting," she said. "There was emotional tyranny in a way. I think the most prominent memory I have of my childhood is that I didn't measure up. I could never get it right." Ms. Davis appeared on the ABC programme to talk about her autobiography, *The Way I See It*, scheduled for release Thursday. It is her fourth book. Last year she published a novel featuring a domineering mother and a detached father.

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